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APOLLONIUS RHODIUS







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## INTRODUCTION

taken away if we assume with Ritschl that Eratosthenes resigned his office some years before his death, which allows us to put the birth of Apollonius at about 280, and would solve other difficulties. For instance, if the Librarians were buried within the precincts, it would account for the burial of Apollonius next to Callimachus—Eratosthenes being still alive. However that may be, it is rather arbitrary to take away the "bibliothecariate" of Apollonius, which is clearly asserted by Suidas, on account of chronological calculations which are themselves uncertain. Moreover, it is more probable that the words following "some say" in the second "life" are a remnant of the original life than a conjectural addition, because the first "life" is evidently incomplete, nothing being said about the end of Apollonius' career.

The principal event in his life, so far as we know, was the quarrel with his master Callimachus, which was most probably the cause of his condemnation at Alexandria and departure to Rhodes. This quarrel appears to have arisen from differences of literary aims and taste, but, as literary differences often do, degenerated into the bitterest personal strife. There are references to the quarrel in the writings of both. Callimachus attacks Apollonius in the

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ventional and commonplace epithets and phrases peculiar to epic poetry. Callimachus was in accordance with the spirit of the age when he proclaimed "a great book" to be "a great evil," and sought to confine poetical activity within the narrowest limits both of subject and space. Theocritus agreed with him, both in principle and practice. The chief characteristics of Alexandrianism are well summarized by Professor Robinson Ellis as follows: "Precision in form and metre, refinement in diction, a learning often degenerating into pedantry and obscurity, a resolute avoidance of everything commonplace in subject, sentiment or allusion." These traits are more prominent in Callimachus than in Apollonius, but they are certainly to be seen in the latter. He seems to have written the *Argonautica* out of bravado, to show that he *could* write an epic poem. But the influence of the age was too strong. Instead of the unity of an Epic we have merely a series of episodes, and it is the great beauty and power of one of these episodes that gives the poem its permanent value—the episode of the love of Jason and Medea. This occupies the greater part of the third book. The first and second books are taken up with the history of the voyage to Colchis, while the fourth book describes the return voyage. These portions

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the difficulty was to know what to omit, and much skill is shewn in fusing into a tolerably harmonious whole conflicting mythological and historical details. He interweaves with his narrative local legends and the founding of cities, accounts of strange customs, descriptions of works of art, such as that of Ganymede and Eros playing with knucklebones,<sup>1</sup> but prosaically calls himself back to the point from these pleasing digressions by such an expression as "but this would take me too far from my song." His business is the straightforward tale and nothing else. The astonishing geography of the fourth book reminds us of the interest of the age in that subject, stimulated no doubt by the researches of Eratosthenes and others.

The language is that of the conventional epic. Apollonius seems to have carefully studied Homeric glosses, and gives many examples of isolated uses, but his choice of words is by no means limited to Homer. He freely avails himself of Alexandrian words and late uses of Homeric words. Among his contemporaries Apollonius suffers from a comparison with Theocritus, who was a little his senior, but he was much admired by Roman writers who derived inspiration from the great classical writers of Greece by way of Alexandria. In fact Alexandria was a

<sup>1</sup> iii. 117-124.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Two editions of the *Argonautica* were published by Apollonius. Of these we have only the second. The Scholia preserve a few passages of the first edition, from which the second seems to have differed only slightly. The old opinion that our MSS. preserve any traces of the first edition has long been given up. The principal MSS. are the following:—

The Laurentian, also called the Medicean, XXXII. 9, of the early eleventh century, the excellent MS. at Florence which contains Sophocles, Aeschylus and Apollonius Rhodius. This is far the best authority for the text (here denoted by L).

The Guelferbytanus of the thirteenth century, which closely agrees with another Laurentian, XXXII. 16, of the same date (here denoted by G and L<sup>2</sup> respectively).

There were in the early eleventh century two types of text, the first being best known to us by L, the second by G and L<sup>2</sup> and the corrections made in L. Quotations in the *Etymologicum Magnum* agree with the second type and show that this is as old as the fifth century. Besides these there are, of inferior MSS., four Vatican and five Parisian which are occasionally useful. Most of them have Scholia; the best Scholia are those of L.

The principal editions are:—

Florence, 1496, 4to. This is the *editio princeps*, by Lascaris, based on L, with Scholia, a very rare book.

Venice, 1521, 8vo. The Aldine, by Franciscus Asulanus, with Scholia.

Paris, 1541, 8vo, based on the Parisian MSS.

Geneva, 1574, 4to, by Stephanus, with Scholia.

Leyden, 1641, 2 vols., 8vo, by J. Hœklin, with a Latin version.

Oxford, 1777, 2 vols., 4to, by J. Shaw, with a Latin version.

Strassburg, 1780, 8vo and 4to, by R. F. P. Brunck.

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Rome, 1791-1794, 2 vols., 4to, by Flangini, with an Italian translation.

Leipzig, 1797, 8vo, by Ch. D. Beek, with a Latin version. A second volume, to contain the Scholia and a commentary, was never published.

Leipzig, 1810-1813, 2 vols., 8vo. A second edition of Brunck by G. H. Schäfer, with the Florentine and Parisian Scholia, the latter printed for the first time.

Leipzig, 1828, 8vo, by A. Wellanor, with the Scholia, both Florentine and Parisian.

Paris, 1841, 4to, by F. S. Lehrs, with a Latin version. In the Didot series.

Leipzig, 1852, 8vo, by R. Merkel, "ad cod. MS. Laurentianum." The Tenbeer Text.

Leipzig, 1854, 2 vols., 8vo, by R. Merkel. The second volume contains Merkel's prolegomena and the Scholia to L, edited by H. Keil.

Oxford, 1900, 8vo, by R. C. Seaton. In the "Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis" series.

The text of the present edition is, with a few exceptions, that of the Oxford edition prepared by me for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press, whom I hereby thank for their permission to use it.

The English translations of Apollonius are as follows:—

By R. B. Greene, by F. Fawkes, both 1780; by W. Preston, 1803. None of these are of value. There is a prose translation by E. P. Coleridge in the Dohn Series. The most recent and also the best is a verse translation by Mr. A. S. Way, 1901, in "The Temple Classics."

I may also mention the excellent translation in French by Prof. H. de La Ville de Mirmont of the University of Bordeaux, 1892.

Upon Alexandrian literature in general Conat's *Poésie Alexandrine sous les trois premiers Ptolémées*, 1882, may be recommended. Susmihl's *Geschichte der Griechischen Literatur in der Alexandrinerzeit*, 2 vols., 1891, is a perfect storehouse of facts and authorities, but more adapted for reference than for general reading. Morris' *Life and Death of Jason* is a poem that in many passages singularly resembles Apollonius in its pessimistic tone and spirit.



## SUMMARY OF BOOK I

INVOCATION of *Phoebus* and cause of the expedition (1-22).—Catalogue of the *Argonauts* (23-233).—March of the heroes to the port: farewell of *Jason* and *Alcimedea* (234-305).—Preparations for departure and launching of *Argo*: sacrifice to *Apollo*: prediction of *Idmon* (306-447).—The festival, insolence of *Idas*, song of *Orpheus* and departure (448-558).—Voyage along the coast of *Thessaly* and across to *Lemnos* (559-608).—Recent history of *Lemnos* and stay of the *Argonauts* there: farewell of *Jason* and *Hypsipyle* (609-909).—Voyage from *Lemnos* by *Samothrace* to the *Propontis*: reception by the *Doliones* of *Cyzicus* (910-988).—Fight against the *Giants*: departure and return of the *Argonauts* to *Cyzicus*: sacrifice to *Rhea* on *Mt. Dindymon* (989-1152).—Arrival among the *Mysians*: rape of *Hylas*, which is announced to *Heracles* (1153-1260).—While *Heracles* and *Polyphemus* search for *Hylas* they are left behind (1261-1328).—The fate of *Heracles* and *Polyphemus*: arrival of *Argo* among the *Bebrycians* (1329-1362).



# ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΙΟΥ ΡΟΔΙΟΥ ΑΡΓΟΝΑΥΤΙΚΩΝ

## Α

Ἀρχόμενος σέο, Φοῖβε, παλαιγενέων κλέα φωτῶν  
μνήσομαι, οἳ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας  
Κυανέας βασιλῆος ἐφημοσύνη Πελῖας  
χρύσειον μετὰ κῶας εὐζυγον ἤλασαν Ἀργαί.

Τοίην γὰρ Πελὶς φάτιν ἔκλυεν, ὥς μιν ὑπίσσω  
μοῖρα μένει στυγερή, τοῦδ' ἀνέρος, ὅντιν' ἴδοιτο  
δημόθεν οἰσπέδιλον, ὑπ' ἐννεσίῃσι δαμῆναι.  
δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτ' ἔτεην<sup>1</sup> κατὰ βάξιν Ἰήσων  
χειμερίοιο ῥέεθρα κιῶν διὰ ποσσὶν Ἀναύρου  
ἄλλο μὲν ἐξεσάωσεν ὑπ' ἱλύος, ἄλλο δ' ἐνερθεν 10  
κάλλιπεν αἰθι πέδιλον ἐνισχύμενον προχοῇσιν.  
ἴκετο δ' ἐς Πελίην αὐτοσχεδὸν ἀντιβολήσων  
εἰλαπίνης, ἣν πατρὶ Ποσειδάωνι καὶ ἄλλοις  
ῥέξε θεοῖς, Ἡρῆς δὲ Πελασγίδος οὐκ ἀλέγιζεν.  
αἰψὰ δὲ τόνγ' ἐσιδὼν ἐφράσσατο, καὶ οἳ ἄεθλον  
ἔντυε ναυτιλῆς πολυκηδέος, ὅφρ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ  
ἦε καὶ ἀλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσι νόστον ὀλέσση.

<sup>1</sup> μετέπειτ' ἔτεην Merkel: μετέπειτα τεῖον Lli.

# APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

## THE ARGONAUTICA

### BOOK I

BEGINNING with thee, O Phœbus, I will recount the famous deeds of men of old, who, at the behest of King Pelias, down through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks, sped well-benched Argo in quest of the golden fleece.

Such was the oracle that Pelias heard, that a hateful doom awaited him—to be slain at the prompting of the man whom he should see coming forth from the people with but one sandal. And no long time after, in accordance with that true report, Jason crossed the stream of wintry Anaurus on foot, and saved one sandal from the mire, but the other he left in the depths held back by the flood. And straightway he came to Pelias to share the banquet which the king was offering to his father Poseidon and the rest of the gods, though he paid no honour to Pelasgian Hera. Quickly the king saw him and pondered, and devised for him the toil of a troublous voyage, in order that on the sea or among strangers he might lose his home-return.

Αἴσων Ἀλκιμέδην Φυλακίδα· τῆς μιν ἀνώγει  
προσύνη καὶ κῆδος ἐνικρινθῆναι ὁμίλῳ.

Οὐδὲ Φεραῖς Ἀδμητος ἐνρρήνεσσιν ἀνάσσω  
μῖμνον ὑπὸ σκοπιῇν ὄρεος Χαλκωδονίοιο.

50

Οὐδ' Ἀλόπη μῖμνον πολυλήιοι Ἑρμείας  
νῆες εὖ δεδαῶτε δόλους, Ἑρως καὶ Ἐχίων,  
τοῖσι δ' ἐπὶ τρίτατος γνωτὸς κίε νισσομένοισιν  
Λίβαλίδης· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπ' Ἀμφρυσσοῖο ῥοῆσιν  
Μυρμιδόνοιο κούρη Φθιάς τέκεν Εὐπολέμεια·  
τὼ δ' αὐτ' ἐκγεγάτην Μενετηίδος Ἀντιανείρης.

Ἦλυθε δ' ἀφνειὴν προλιπὼν Γυρτῶνα Κόρωνος  
Καινείδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν, ἐοῦ δ' οὐ πατὴρ ἀμείνων.  
Καινέα γὰρ ζῶν περ ἔτι κλείουσιν αἰοῖδοι  
Κενταύροισιν ὀλέσθαι, ὅτε σφέας οἶος ἀπ' ἄλλων  
ἦλασ' ἀριστήων οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν ὀρμηθέντες  
οὔτε μιν ἀγκλῖναι προτέρω σθένον, οὔτε δαῖξαι·  
ἀλλ' ἄρρηκτος ἄκαμptos ἐδύσετο νειόβη γαίης,  
θεινόμενος στιβαρῆσι καταγῆδην ἐλάττησιν.

60

Ἦλυθε δ' αὖ Μόψος Τιταρήσιος, ὃν περὶ πάντων  
Λητοῖδης ἐδίδαξε θεοπροπίας οἰωνῶν·  
ἠδὲ καὶ Εὐρυδάμας Κτιμένου πάϊς ἄγχι δὲ λίμνης  
Ξυνιάδος Κτιμένην Δολοπηίδα ναιετάασκεν.

Καὶ μὴν Ἀκτωρ νῆα Μενοίτιον ἐξ Ὀπότεος  
ᾤρσεν, ἀριστίησσι σὺν ἀνδράσιν ὄφρα νέοιτο.

70

Εἶπετο δ' Εὐρυτίων τε καὶ ἀλκίηεις Ἐριβώτης,  
νῆες ὁ μὲν Τελέοντος, ὁ δ' Ἴρου Ἀκτορίδαο·  
ἦτοι ὁ μὲν Τελέοντος ἐνκλειῆς Ἐριβώτης,  
Ἴρου δ' Εὐρυτίων· σὺν καὶ τρίτος ἦεν Οἰλεύς,  
ἔξοχος ἠγορέην καὶ ἐπαῖξαι μετόπισθεν  
εὖ δεδαῶς δῆροισιν· ὅτε κλίνωσι φάλαγγας.

Αὐτὰρ ἀπ' Εὐβοίης Κάνθος κίε, τὸν ῥα Κάνηθος  
πέμπεν Ἀβαντιάδης λεληγμένον· οὐ μὲν ἐμελλεν

Θεσπιέων, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ὀρινόμενον προδαῖναι  
 κῦμ' ἄλως εὐρείης, ἐσθλὸς δ' ἀνέμοιο θυέλλας  
 καὶ πλόον ἡλίῳ τε καὶ ἀστέρι τεκμήρασθαι.  
 αὐτὴ μιν Τριτωνὶς ἀριστήων ἐς ὄμιλον  
 ὤρσεν Ἀθηναίη, μετὰ δ' ἤλυθεν ἐλδομένοισιν.  
 αὐτὴ γὰρ καὶ νῆα θοὴν κάμε· σὺν δέ οἱ Ἄργος  
 τεύξεν Ἀρεστορίδης κείνης ὑποθημοσύνησιν.  
 τῷ καὶ πασῶν προφερεστάτῃ ἔπλετο νηῶν,  
 ὅσσαι ὑπ' εἰρεσίῃσιν ἐπειρήσαντο θαλάσσης.

110

Φλίας δ' αὐτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν Ἀραιθυρέηθεν ἴκανεν,  
 ἐνθ' ἀφνειὸς ἔναιε Διωνύσοιο ἔκκητι,  
 πατρὸς ἐοῦ, πηγῇσιν ἐφέστιος Ἀσωποῖο.

Ἄργόθεν αὖ Ταλαὸς καὶ Ἀρήιος, υἱὲ Βίαντος,  
 ἤλυθον ἰφθιμός τε Λεώδοκος, οὗς τέκε Πηρὼ  
 Νηληΐς· τῆς δ' ἀμφὶ δῆν ἐμόγησε βαρεῖαν  
 Λιολίδης σταθμοῖσιν ἐν Ἰφίκλοιῳ Μελάμπους.

120

Οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδὲ βίην κρατερόφρονος Ἡρακλῆος  
 πευθόμεθ' Αἰσονίδαο λαλαιομένου ἀθερίζαι.  
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ αἶε βάξιν ἀγειρομένων ἡρώων,  
 νεῖον ἀπ' Ἀρκαδίας Λυρκίῳ<sup>1</sup> Ἄργος ἀμείψας  
 τὴν ὁδόν, ἣ ζῶν φέρε κάπριον, ὅς ῥ' ἐνὶ βήσσης  
 φέρβετο Λαμπεΐης, Ἐρυμάνθιον ἄμ' μέγα τίφος,  
 τὸν μὲν ἐνὶ πρώτῃσι Μυκηναίων ἀγορήσιν  
 δεσμοῖς ἰλλόμενον μεγάλων ἀπεθήκατο νότων·  
 αὐτὸς δ' ἢ ἰότητι παρέκ νόον Εὐρυσθέως  
 ὠρμήθη· σὺν καὶ οἱ Ἄγλας κίεν, ἐσθλὸς ὁπάων,  
 πρωθήβης, ἰῶν τε φορεὺς φύλακός τε βιοῖο.

130

Τῷ δ' ἐπὶ δὴ θεῖοιο κίεν Δαναοῖο γενέθλη,  
 Ναύπλιος· ἣ γὰρ ἔην Κλυτονήου Ναυβολίδαο·  
 Ναύβολος αὖ Λέρνου· Λέρνον γε μὲν ἴδμεν ἔοντα

<sup>1</sup> Λυρκίαν scholia : Λυγκίαν MSS.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Lernus we know was the son of Proetus son of Nauplius; and once Anymone daughter of Danaus, wedded to Poseidon, bare Nauplius, who surpassed all men in naval skill.

Idmon came last of all them that dwelt at Argos, for though he had learnt his own fate by augury, he came, that the people might not grudge him fair renown. He was not in truth the son of Abas, but Leto's son himself begat him to be numbered among the illustrious Aeolids; and himself taught him the art of prophecy—to pay heed to birds and to observe the signs of the burning sacrifice.

Moreover Aetolian Leda sent from Sparta strong Polydeuces and Castor, skilled to guide swift-footed steeds; these her dearly-loved sons she bare at one birth in the house of Tyndareus; nor did she forbid their departure; for she had thoughts worthy of the bride of Zeus.

The sons of Aphareus, Lynceus and proud Idas, came from Arene, both exulting in their great strength; and Lynceus too excelled in keenest sight, if the report is true that that hero could easily direct his sight even beneath the earth.

And with them Neleian Periclymenus set out to come, eldest of all the sons of godlike Neleus who were born at Pylos; Poseidon had given him boundless strength and granted him that whatever shape he should crave during the fight, that he should take in the stress of battle.

Moreover from Arcadia came Amphidamas and Cepheus, who inhabited Tegea and the allotment of Apheidas, two sons of Aleus; and Ancaeus followed them as the third, whom his father Lycurgus sent, the

γηράσκοντ' Ἀλεὼν λίπετ' ἅμ πόλιν ὄφρα κομίζοι,  
 παῖδα δ' εὖν σφετέροισι κασιγνήτοισιν ὅπασσεν.  
 βῆ δ' ὄγε Μαιναλῆς ἄρκτου δέρος, ἀμφίτομόν τε  
 δεξιτερῇ πᾶλλον πέλεκυν μέγαν. ἔντεα γάρ οἱ  
 πατροπάτωρ Ἀλεὼς μυχάτῃ ἐνέκρυψε καλῇ, 170  
 αἱ κέν πως ἔτι καὶ τὸν ἐρητύσειε νέεσθαι.

Βῆ δὲ καὶ Ἀνγείης, δὴ δὴ φάτις Ἡελίοιο  
 ἔμμεναι· Ἡλείοισι δ' ὄγ' ἀνδράσιν ἐμβασίλευεν,  
 δλβφ κυδιῶν μέγα δ' ἴετο Κολχίδα γαῖαν  
 αὐτὸν τ' Αἰήτην ἰδέειν σημάντορα Κόλχων.

Ἀστέριος δὲ καὶ Ἀμφίων Ὑπερασίου νῆς  
 Πελλήνης ἀφίκανον Ἀχαιῖδος, ἣν ποτε Πέλλης  
 πατροπάτωρ ἐπόλισσεν ἐπ' ὄφρυσιν Ἀνγιαλοῖο.

Ταῖναρον αὐτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι λιπὼν Εὐφῆμος ἴκανε,  
 τὸν ῥα Ποσειδάωνι ποδωκῆστατον ἄλλων 180  
 Εὐρώπῃ Τιτυοῖο μεγασθενέος τέκε κούρη.  
 κείνος ἀνὴρ καὶ πόντου ἐπὶ γλαυκοῖο θέεσκεν  
 οἴδατος, οὐδὲ θοοὺς βάπτεν πόδας, ἀλλ' ὅσον  
 ἄκροισι

ἴχνεσι τεγγόμενος διερῇ πεφόρητο κελεύθῳ.

Καὶ δ' ἄλλω δύο παῖδε Ποσειδάωνος ἴκοντο·  
 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν πτολίεθρον ἀγανοῦ Μιλήτοιο  
 νοσφισθεὶς Ἐργῖνος, ὁ δ' Ἰμβρασίης ἔδος Ἥρης,  
 Παρθενίην, Ἀγκαῖος ὑπέρβιος· ἴστορε δ' ἄμφω  
 ἡμὲν ναυτιλίας, ἡδ' ἄρεος εὐχετόωντο.

Οἰνεΐδης δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἀφορμηθεὶς Καλυδῶνος 190  
 ἀλκῆεις Μελέαγρος ἀνῆλυθε, Λαοκόων τε,  
 Λαοκόων Οἰνήος ἀδελφεός, οὐ μὲν ἰῆς γε  
 μητέρος· ἀλλὰ ἐθῆσσα γυνὴ τέκε· τὸν μὲν ἄρ'

Οἰνεὺς  
 ἦδ' ἡ γηραλέον κοσμήτορα παιδὸς ἱαλλεν·  
 ὦδ' ἔτι κουρίζων περιθαρσέα δύνεν ὄμιλον

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

brother older than both. But he was left in the city to care for Aleus now growing old, while he gave his son to join his brothers. Ancaeus went clad in the skin of a Maenalian bear, and wielding in his right hand a huge two-edged battleaxe. For his armour his grandsire had hidden in the house's innermost recess, to see if he might by some means still stay his departure.

There came also Augeias, whom fame declared to be the son of Helios; he reigned over the Eleans, glorying in his wealth; and greatly he desired to behold the Colchian land and Aectes himself the ruler of the Colchians.

Asterius and Amphion, sons of Hyperasius, came from Achæan Pellene, which once Pelles their grandsire founded on the brows of Aegialus.

After them from Taenarus came Euphemus whom, most swift-footed of men, Europe, daughter of mighty Tityos, bare to Poseidon. He was wont to skim the swell of the grey sea, and wetted not his swift feet, but just dipping the tips of his toes was borne on the watery path.

Yea, and two other sons of Poseidon came; one Erginus, who left the citadel of glorious Miletus, the other proud Ancaeus, who left Parthenie, the seat of Imbrasion Hera; both boasted their skill in sea-craft and in war.

After them from Calydon came the son of Oeneus, strong Meleagrus, and Laocoon—Laocoon the brother of Oeneus, though not by the same mother, for a serving-woman bare him; him, now growing old, Oeneus sent to guard his son: thus Meleagrus, still a youth, entered the bold band of heroes. No other

ἡρώων. τοῦ δ' οὐτιν' ὑπέρτερον ἄλλον οἶω,  
 νόσφιν γ' Ἑρακλῆος, ἐπελθόμεν, εἴ κ' ἔτι μούνον  
 αὖθι μένων λυκύβαντα μετετράφη Λίτωλοῖσιν.  
 καὶ μὴν οἱ μήτρως αὐτὴν ὁδόν, εὖ μὲν ἄκοντι,  
 εὖ δὲ καὶ ἐν σταδίῃ δεδαημένος ἀντιφέρεσθαι, 200  
 Θεστιάδης Ἰφικλος ἐφωμάρτησε κίοντι.

Σὺν δὲ Πυλαιμόνιος Λέρνου πάϊς Ὀλενίοιο,  
 Λέρνου ἐπὶ κλησιν, γενεὴν γε μὲν Ἑφαίστοιο·  
 τούνεκ' ἦν πόδα σιφλός· ἀτὰρ δέμας οὐ κέ τις ἔτλη  
 ἡνωρὲν τ' ὀνόσασθαι, δὲ καὶ μεταρίθμιος ἦεν  
 πᾶσι ἀριστήεσσιν, Ἰήσου κῦδος ἀέζων.

Ἐκ δ' ἄρα Φωκῆων κίεν Ἰφίτος Ὀρνυτίδαο  
 Ναυβόλου ἐκγεγαώς· ξεῖνος δέ οἱ ἔσκε πάροιθεν,  
 ἦμος ἔβη Πυθώδε θεοπροπίας ἐρεείνων  
 ναυτιλίας· τόθι γάρ μιν εἰς ὑπέδεκτο δόμοισιν. 210

Ζήτης αὖ Κάλαις τε Βορήιοι υἱες ἵκοντο,  
 οὓς ποτ' Ἑρεχθίδι Βορὴν τέκεν Ὀρεῖθυια  
 ἐσχατιῇ Θρήκης δυσχειμέρου· ἐνθ' ἄρα τήνγε  
 Θρηίκιος Βορέης ἀνερείψατο Κεκροπίνηθεν  
 Ἰλισσοῦ προπαίροιθε χορῶ ἐν δινεύουσιν.  
 καὶ μιν ἄγων ἔκαθεν, Σαρπηδονίην ὅθι πέτρην  
 κλείουσιν, ποταμοῖο παρὰ ῥόον Ἐργίνοιο,  
 λυγαίοις ἐδάμασσε περὶ νεφέεσσι καλύψας.  
 τὼ μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισι ποδῶν ἐκάτερθεν ἐρεμνὰς  
 σείον ἀειρομένῳ πτέρυγας, μέγα θάμβος ἰδέσθαι, 220  
 χρυσταῖαις φολίδεσσι διανυγείας· ἀμφὶ δὲ νώτοις  
 κράατος ἐξ ὑπάτοιο καὶ αὐχένος ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθα  
 κυάνεαι δονέοντο μετὰ προιῆσιν ἔθειραι.

Οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' αὐτοῖο πάϊς μενέαιεν Ἀκαστος  
 ἰφθίμου Πελῖας δόμοις ἐν πατρὸς ἐῆος<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ἰοῖο Gl.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

had come superior to him, I ween, except Heracles, if for one year more he had tarried and been nurtured among the Aetolians. Yea, and his uncle, well skilled to fight whether with the javelin or hand to hand, Iphiclus son of Thestius, bare him company on his way.

With him came Palaemonius, son of Olenian Lernus, of Lernus by repute, but his birth was from Hephaestus; and so he was crippled in his feet, but his bodily frame and his valour no one would dare to scorn. Wherefore he was numbered among all the chiefs, winning fame for Jason.

From the Phocians came Iphitus sprung from Naubolus son of Ornytus; once he had been his host when Jason went to Pytho to ask for a response concerning his voyage; for there he welcomed him in his own halls.

Next came Zetes and Calais, sons of Boreas, whom once Oreithyia, daughter of Erechtheus, bare to Boreas on the verge of wintry Thrace; thither it was that Thracian Boreas snatched her away from Cecropia as she was whirling in the dance, hard by Ilissus' stream. And, carrying her far off, to the spot that men called the rock of Sarpedon, near the river Erginus, he wrapped her in dark clouds and forced her to his will. There they were making their dusky wings quiver upon their ankles on both sides as they rose, a great wonder to behold, wings that gleamed with golden scales: and round their backs from the top of the head and neck, hither and thither, their dark tresses were being shaken by the wind.

No, nor had Acastus son of mighty Pelias himself any will to stay behind in the palace of his brave sire,

μιμνάξειν, Ἄργος τε θεῆς ὑποεργὸς Ἀθήνης·  
 ἀλλ' ἄρα καὶ τὸ μέλλον ἐνικρινθῆναι ὁμίλῃ.

Τόσσοι ἄρ' Αἰσονίδῃ συμμήστορες ἠγερέθοντο.  
 τοὺς μὲν ἀριστῆας Μινύας περιναϊετάοντες 230  
 κίκλησκον μάλα πάντας, ἐπεὶ Μινύας θυγατρῶν  
 οἱ πλείστοι καὶ ἀριστοὶ ἀφ' αἵματος εὐχετόωντο  
 ἔμμεναι· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν Ἰήσωνα γείνατο μήτηρ  
 Ἀλκιμέδῃ, Κλυμένης Μινυίδος ἐκγεγαυῖα.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δμῶεσσιν ἐπαρτέα πάντ' ἐτέτυκτο,  
 ὅσσα περ ἐντύνονται ἐπαρτέες ἐνδοθι νῆες,  
 εὖτ' ἂν ἄγῃ χρεὸς ἄνδρας ὑπεῖρ ἄλα ναυτίλλεσθαι,  
 δὴ τότε ἴσαν μετὰ νῆα δι' ἄστεος, ἔνθα περ ἅκται  
 κλείονται Παγασαὶ Μαγνήτιδες· ἀμφὶ δὲ λαῶν  
 πληθὺς σπερχομένων<sup>1</sup> ἄμυδις θέεν· οἱ δὲ φαεινοὶ  
 ἀστέρες ὥς νεφέεσσι μετέπρεπον· ὧδε δ' ἕκαστος 240  
 ἔννεπεν εἰσορόων σὺν τεύχεσιν Αἴσσοντας·

Ἰ Ζεῦ ἄνα, τίς Πελῖας νόος; πόθι τόσσον ὄμιλον  
 ἡρώων γαίης Παναχαιίδος ἔκτοθι βάλλει;  
 αὐτῇμῖρ κε δόμους ὀλοῶ πυρὶ δηώσειαν  
 Αἰήτεω, ὅτε μὴ σφιν ἔκῳν δέρος ἐγγυαλίξῃ.  
 ἀλλ' οὐ φυκτὰ κέλευθα, πόνος δ' ἄπρηκτος ἰοῦσιν.

Ὡς φάσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κατὰ πτόλιν αἱ δὲ  
 γυναῖκες  
 πολλὰ μάλ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἐς αἰθέρα χεῖρας ἄειρον,  
 εὐχόμεναι νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὀπίσσαι.  
 ἄλλη δ' εἰς ἐτέρην ὀλοφύρετο δακρυχέουσα· 250

Ἰ Δειλὴ Ἀλκιμέδῃ, καὶ σοὶ κακὸν ὄψέ περ ἔμπησ  
 ἦλυθεν, οὐδ' ἐτέλεσσας ἐπ' ὠγλαίῃ βιότοιο.

<sup>1</sup> σπερχομένων Meineke: ἐπερχομένων MSS.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

of life. Aeson too, ill-fated man! Surely better had it been for him, if he were lying beneath the earth, enveloped in his shroud, still unconscious of bitter toils. Would that the dark wave, when the maiden Helle perished, had overwhelmed Phrixus too with the ram; but the dire portent even sent forth a human voice, that it might <sup>1</sup>cause to Alcimede sorrows and countless pains hereafter."

Thus the women spake at the departure of the heroes. And now many thralls, men and women, were gathered together, and his mother, smitten with grief for Jason. And a bitter pang seized every woman's heart; and with them groaned the father in baleful old age, lying on his bed, closely wrapped round. But the hero straightway soothed their pain, encouraging them, and bade the thralls take up his weapons for war; and they in silence with downcast looks took them up. And even as the mother had thrown her arms about her son, so she clung, weeping without stint, as a maiden all alone weeps, falling fondly on the neck of her hoary nurse, a maid who has now no others to care for her, but she drags on a weary life under a stepmother, who maltreats her continually with ever fresh insults, and as she weeps, her heart within her is bound fast with misery, nor can she sob forth all the groans that struggle for utterance; so without stint wept Alcimede straining her son in her arms, and in her yearning grief spake as follows:

"Would that on that day when, wretched woman that I am, I heard King Pelias proclaim his evil behest, I had straightway given up my life and forgotten my cares, so that thou thyself, my son, with

# APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

τέκνον ἐμόν· τὸ γὰρ οἶον ἦν ἔτι λοιπὸν ἐέλδωρ  
ἐκ σέθεν, ἄλλα δὲ πάντα πάλαι θρεπτήρια πέσσω.  
νῦν γε μὲν ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν Ἀχαιάδεσσιν ἀγρήτῃ  
δμῶϊς ὅπως κενεοῖσι λελείψομαι ἐν μεγάροισιν,  
σεῖο πόθῳ μινύθουσα δυσάμμορος, ᾧ ἐπὶ πολλὴν  
ἀγλαίην καὶ κῦδος ἔχον πάρος, ᾧ ἐπὶ μούνῳ  
μίτρην πρῶτον ἔλυσα καὶ ὕστατον. ἔξοχα γάρ  
μοι

Εἰλείθυια θεὰ πολέος ἐμέγηρε τόκοιο.  
ᾧ μοι ἐμῆς ἄτης· τὸ μὲν οὐδ' ὅσον, οὐδ' ἐν ὀνείρῳ 290  
ᾧσάμην, εἰ Φρίξος ἐμοὶ κακὸν ἔσσειτ' ἀλύξας.

Ὡς ἤγε στενάχουσα κινύρετο· ταὶ δὲ γυναῖκες  
ἀμφίπολοι γοάσκον ἐπισταδόν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε  
μειλιχίους ἐπέεσσι παρηγορέων προσέειπεν·

Μῆ μοι ληνγαλέας ἐνὶ βάλλεο, μῆτερ, ἀνίας  
ὦδε λήν, ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἐρητύσεις κακότητος  
δάκρυσιν, ἀλλ' ἔτι κεν καὶ ἐπ' ἄλγεσιν ἄλγος ἄροιο.  
πήματα γάρ τ' αἰδέηλα θεοὶ θνητοῖσι νέμουσιν,  
τῶν μοῖραν κατὰ θυμὸν ἀνιάζουσά περ ἔμψης  
τλῆθι φέρειν· θάρσει δὲ συνημοσύνησιν Ἀθήνησ, 300  
ἥ δὲ θεοπροπίοισιν, ἐπεὶ μάλα δεξιὰ Φοῖβος  
ἔχρη, ἀτὰρ μετέπειτά γ' ἀριστήων ἐπαρωγῇ.  
ἀλλὰ σὺ μὲν νῦν αὖθι μετ' ἀμφιπόλοισιν ἔκηλος  
μίμνε δόμοις, μηδ' ὄρνις ἀεικελίῃ πέλε νηί·  
κείσει δ' ὁμαρτήσουσιν ἔται δμῶές τε κιόντι.

Ἦ. καὶ ὁ μὲν προτέρωσε δόμων ἐξῶρτο νέεσθαι.  
οἶος δ' ἐκ νηοῖο θυώδεος εἰσιν Ἀπόλλων  
Δῆλον ἄν' ἠγαθέην, ἥ δὲ Κλάρων, ἥ ὅγε Πυθῶ,  
ἥ Λυκίην εὐρεῖαν, ἐπὶ Ξάνθοιο ῥοῇσιν,  
τοῖος ἀνὰ πληθύν δῆμον κίεν· ὥρτο δ' αὐτὴ 310  
κεκλομένων ἀμυδῖς. τῷ δὲ ξύμβλητο γεραιῇ

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

thine own hands, mightest have buried me ; for that was the only wish left me still to be fulfilled by thee, all the other rewards for thy nurture have I long enjoyed. Now I, once so admired among Achæan women, shall be left behind like a bondwoman in my empty halls, pining away, ill-fated one, for love of thee, thee on whose account I had aforetime so much splendour and renown, my only son for whom I loosed my virgin zone first and last. For to me beyond others the goddess Eileithyia grudged abundant offspring. Alas for my folly ! Not once, not even in my dreams did I forebode this, that the flight of Phrixus would bring me woe."

Thus with moaning she wept, and her hand-maidens, standing by, lamented ; but Jason spake gently to her with comforting words :

"Do not, I pray thee, mother, store up bitter sorrows overmuch, for thou wilt not redeem me from evil by tears, but wilt still add grief to grief. For unseen are the woes that the gods mete out to mortals ; be strong to endure thy share of them though with grief in thy heart ; take courage from the promises of Athena, and from the answers of the gods (for very favourable oracles has Phoebus given), and then from the help of the chieftains. But do thou remain here, quiet among thy handmaids, and be not a bird of ill omen to the ship ; and thither my clansmen and thralls will follow me."

He spake, and started forth to leave the house. And as Apollo goes forth from some fragrant shrine to divine Delos or Claros or Pytho or to broad Lycia near the stream of Xanthus, in such beauty moved Jason through the throng of people ; and a cry arose as they shouted together. And there met him aged

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Iphias, priestess of Artemis guardian of the city, and kissed his right hand, but she had not strength to say a word, for all her eagerness, as the crowd rushed on, but she was left there by the wayside, as the old are left by the young, and he passed on and was gone afar.

Now when he had left the well-built streets of the city, he came to the beach of Pagasae, where his comrades greeted him as they stayed together near the ship *Argo*. And he stood at the entering in, and they were gathered to meet him. And they perceived Acastus and Argus coming from the city, and they marvelled when they saw them hasting with all speed, despite the will of Pelias. The one, Argus, son of Arestor, had cast round his shoulders the hide of a bull reaching to his feet, with the black hair upon it, the other, a fair mantle of double fold, which his sister Pelopeia had given him. Still Jason forebore from asking them about each point but bade all be seated for an assembly. And there, upon the folded sails and the mast as it lay on the ground, they all took their seats in order. And among them with goodwill spake Aeson's son :

"All the equipment that a ship needs—for all is in due order—lies ready for our departure. Therefore we will make no long delay in our sailing for these things' sake, when the breezes but blow fair. But, friends,—for common to all is our return to Hellas hereafter, and common to all is our path to the land of Aetes—now therefore with ungrudging heart choose the bravest to be our leader, who shall

ὄρχαμον ἡμείων,<sup>1</sup> ᾧ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτο,  
νείκεα συνθεσίας τε μετὰ ξείνοισι βαλέσθαι. 340

Ὡς φάτο· πάπτηναν δὲ νέοι θρασὺν Ἡρακλῆα  
ἤμενον ἐν μέσσοισι· μὴ δέ ἐ πάντες αὐτῇ  
σημαίνειν ἐπέτελλον· ὁ δ' αὐτόθεν, ἔνθα περ ἦστο,  
δεξιτερὴν ἀνὰ χεῖρα τανύσσατο φώνησέν τε·

Μήτις ἐμοὶ τόδε κῦδος ὀπαζέτω. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε  
πείσομαι· ὥστε καὶ ἄλλον ἀναστήσεσθαι ἐρύξω.  
αὐτός, ὅτις ξυνάγειρε, καὶ ἀρχεῖοι ὁμάδοιο.

Ἡ ῥα μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ' ἦνεον, ὥς ἐκέλευεν  
Ἡρακλῆς· ἀνὰ δ' αὐτὸς ἀρήμιος ὤρνυτ' Ἴήσων  
γηθόσυνος, καὶ τοῖα λιλαιομένοις ἀγόρευεν· 350

Εἰ μὲν δὴ μοι κῦδος ἐπιτρωπᾶτε μέλεσθαι,  
μηκέτ' ἔπειθ', ὥς καὶ πρίν, ἐρητύοιτο κέλευθα.  
νῦν γε μὲν ἤδη Φοῖβον ἀρεσσάμενοι θυέεσσιν  
δαῖτ' ἐντυνώμεσθαι παρασχεδόν. ὅφρα δ' ἴωσιν  
δμῶες ἐμοὶ σταθμῶν σημνίωτες, οἷσι μέμνηεν  
δεῦρο βόας ἀγέληθεν ἐν κρίναντας ἐλάσσαι,  
τόφρα κε νῆ' ἐρύσαιμεν ἔσω ἅλός, ὅπλα δὲ πάντα  
ἐνθέμενοι πεπάλαχθε κατὰ κληῖδας ἐρετμά.  
τείως δ' αὖ καὶ βωμὸν ἐπάκτιον Ἐμβασίοιο  
θείομεν Ἀπόλλωνος, ὃ μοι χρεῖων ὑπέδεκτο 360  
σημανέειν δείξειν τε πόρους ἅλός, εἴ κε θυηλαῖς  
οὐ ἔθεν ἐξάρχωμαι ἀεθλεύων βασιλῆι.

Ἡ ῥα, καὶ εἰς ἔργον πρῶτος τράπεθ'· οἱ δ'  
ἐπανέστησαν

πειθόμενοι ἀπὸ δ' εἴματ' ἐπήτριμα νηήσαντο  
λείψ ἐπὶ πλαταμῶνι, τὸν οὐκ ἐπέβαλλε θάλασσα  
κύμασι, χειμερὶν δὲ πάλαι ἀποέκλυσεν ἄλμη.

<sup>1</sup> ἡμείων one Vatican, three Parisian: ἡμείων LG.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

be careful for everything, to take upon him our quarrels and covenants with strangers."

Thus he spake; and the young heroes turned their eyes towards bold Heracles sitting in their midst, and with one shout they all enjoined upon him to be their leader; but he, from the place where he sat, stretched forth his right hand and said:

"Let no one offer this honour to me. For I will not consent, and I will forbid any other to stand up. Let the hero who brought us together, himself be the leader of the host."

Thus he spake with high thoughts, and they assented, as Heracles bade; and warlike Jason himself rose up, glad at heart, and thus addressed the eager throng:

"If ye entrust your glory to my care, no longer as before let our path be hindered. Now at last let us propitiate Phoebus with sacrifice and straightway prepare a feast. And until my thralls come, the overseers of my steading, whose care it is to choose out oxen from the herd and drive them hither, we will drag down the ship to the sea, and do ye place all the tackling within, and draw lots for the benches for rowing. Meantime let us build upon the beach an altar to Apollo-Embasius<sup>1</sup> who by an oracle promised to point out and show me the paths of the sea, if by sacrifice to him I should begin my venture for King Pelias."

He spake, and was the first to turn to the work, and they stood up in obedience to him; and they heaped their garments, one upon the other, on a smooth stone, which the sea did not strike with its waves, but the stormy surge had cleansed it long before.

<sup>1</sup> i.e. God of embarkation.



σκαλμοῖς δ' ἀμφὶς ἑρετμὰ κατήρτουν· ἐν δέ οἱ ἴστων  
λαίφειά τ' εὐποίητα καὶ ἄρμαλιν ἐβάλοντο.

Λύτὰρ ἐπεὶ τὰ ἕκαστα περιφραδέως ἀλέγυναν,  
κληΐδας μὲν πρῶτα πάλῳ διεμοιρήσαντο,  
ἄνδρ' ἐντυναμένῳ δοιῶ μίαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα μέσσην  
ἦρεον Ἡρακλῆι καὶ ἡρώων ἄτερ ἄλλων  
Ἀγκαίῳ, Τεγέης ὅς ῥα πτολίεθρον ἔναιεν.  
τοῖς μέσσην οἰοῖσιν ἀπὸ κληΐδα λίποντο  
αὐτῶς, οὔτι πάλῳ· ἐπὶ δ' ἔτρεπον αἰνήσαντες  
Τίφυν ἐυστείρης οἴηια νηὸς ἔρυσθαι.

400

Ἔνθεν δ' αὖ λαίηνγας ἀλὸς σχεδὸν ὀχλίζοντες  
νῆεον αὐτόθι βωμὸν ἐπάκτιον Ἀπόλλωνος,  
Ἀκτίου Ἑμβασίοιό τ' ἐπώνυμον· ὧκα δὲ τοίγε  
φειτροὺς ἀξαλέης στόρεσαν καθύπερθεν ἐλαίης.  
τείως δ' αὐτ' ἀγέληθεν ἐπιπροέηκαν ἄγοντες  
βουκόλοι Λίσωνίδαο δύνω βόε. τοὺς δ' ἐρύσαντο  
κουρότεροι ἐτάρων βωμοῦ σχεδόν, οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα  
χέρνιβά τ' οὐλοχύτας τε παρέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ  
Ἰήσων

εὐχετο κεκλόμενος πατρώιον Ἀπόλλωνα·

410

Ἐκλύθι ἄναξ, Παγασάς τε πόλιν τ' Λίσωνίδα  
ναίων,

ἡμετέριοι τοκῆς ἐπώνυμον, ὅς μοι ὑπέστης  
Πυθοῖ χρειομένῳ ἄνυσιν καὶ πείραθ' ὁδοῖο  
σημανεῖν, αὐτὸς γὰρ ἐπαίτιος ἔπλευ ἀέθλων·  
αὐτὸς νῦν ἄγε νῆα σὺν ἀρτεμέεσσιν ἐταίροις  
κεῖσέ τε καὶ παλίνροσον ἐς Ἑλλάδα. σοὶ δ' ἂν  
ὀπίσσω

τόσσω, ὅσσοι κεν νοστήσομεν, ὠγλαὰ ταύρων  
ἰρὰ πάλιν βωμῷ ἐπιθήσομεν· ἄλλα δὲ Πυθοῖ,  
ἄλλα δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπερείσια δῶρα κομίσσω.

νῦν δ' ἴθι, καὶ τήνδ' ἡμιν, Ἐκηβόλε, δέξο θνηλήν,

420

ἦν τοι τῆσδ' ἐπίβαθρα χάριν προτεθείμεθα νηὸς  
 πρωτίστην· λύσαιμι δ', ἄναξ, ἐπ' ἀπήμονι μοῖρῃ  
 πείσματα σὴν διὰ μῆτιν· ἐπιπνεύσεις δ' αἴτης  
 μέλιχος, ᾧ κ' ἐπὶ πόντον ἐλευσόμεθ' εὐδιόωντες·

Ἦ, καὶ ἅμ' εὐχολῇ προχύτας βάλε. τῷ δ' ἐπὶ  
 βουσὶν

ζωσάσθην, Ἀγκαῖος ὑπέρβιος, Ἡρακλῆς τε.  
 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν ῥοπάλφ' μέσσον κάρη ἀμφὶ μέτωπα  
 πλῆξεν, ὁ δ' ἀθρόος αὖθι πεσὼν ἐνερείσατο γαίῃ·  
 Ἀγκαῖος δ' ἐτέροιο κατὰ πλατὺν αὐχένα κόψας  
 χαλκείῳ πελέκει κρατεροὺς διέκερσε τένοντας·

430

ἦριπε δ' ἀμφοτέροισι περιρρηδῆς κεράεσσιν.  
 τοὺς δ' ἔταροι σφάξαν τε θοῶς, δεῖράν τε βοείας,  
 κόπτον, δαίτρευνόν τε, καὶ ἱερὰ μῆρ' ἐτάμοντο,  
 καδ' δ' ἄμυνδεις τάγε πάντα καλίνφαντες πύκα δημῷ  
 καίον ἐπὶ σχίζησιν· ὁ δ' ἀκρήτους χέε λοιβὰς  
 Λίσουίδης, γήθει δὲ σέλας θηεύμενος Ἴδμων  
 πάντοσε λαμπόμενον θυέων ἅπο τοῖό τε λυγρὸν  
 πορφυρέαις ἐλίκεσσιν ἐναΐσιμον αἰσσοῦσαν·  
 αἶψα δ' ἀπηλεγέως νόον ἔκφατο Λητοῖδ' αὖ.

Ἔμιν μὲν δὴ μοῖρα θεῶν χρεῖώ τε περῆσαι  
 ἐνθάδε κῶας ἄγοντας· ἀπειρέσιοι δ' ἐνὶ μέσσω  
 κείσέ τε δεῦρό τ' ἔασιν ἀνερχομένοισιν ἄεθλοι.  
 αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ θανέειν στυγερῇ ὑπὸ δαίμονος αἴσῃ  
 τηλύθι που πέπρωται ἐπ' Ἀσίδος ἡπείροιο.  
 ὦδε κακοῖς δεδαῶς ἔτι καὶ πάρος οἰωνοῖσιν  
 πτότμον ἐμὸν πάτρης ἐξήμιον, ὅφρ' ἐπιβαίην  
 νηός, ἐυκλείη δὲ δόμοις ἐπιβάντι λίπηται·

440

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· κοῦροι δὲ θεοπροπίης αἰόντες  
 νόστῳ μὲν γήθησαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν Ἴδμωνος αἴσῃ.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

thee for this ship on our embarkation; and grant, O King, that with a prosperous weid I may loose the hawsers, relying on thy counsel, and may the breeze blow softly with which we shall sail over the sea in fair weather."

He spake, and with his prayer cast the barley meal. And they two girded themselves to slay the steers, proud Ancaeus and Heracles. The latter with his club smote one steer mid-head on the brow, and falling in a heap on the spot, it sank to the ground; and Ancaeus struck the broad neck of the other with his axe of bronze, and shore through the mighty sinews; and it fell prone on both its horns. Their comrades quickly severed the victims' throats, and flayed the hides: they sundered the joints and carved the flesh, then cut out the sacred thigh bones, and covering them all together closely with fat burnt them upon cloven wood. And Aeson's son poured out pure libations, and Idmon rejoiced beholding the flame as it gleamed on every side from the sacrifice, and the smoke of it mounting up with good omen in dark spiral columns; and quickly he spake outright the will of Leto's son:

"For you it is the will of heaven and destiny that ye shall return here with the fleece; but meanwhile both going and returning, countless trials await you. But it is my lot, by the hateful decree of a god, to die somewhere afar off on the mainland of Asia. Thus, though I learnt my fate from evil omens even before now, I have left my fatherland to embark on the ship, that so after my embarking fair fame may be left me in my house."

Thus he spake; and the youths hearing the divine utterance rejoiced at their return, but grief seized

ἦμος δ' ἥελιος σταθερὸν παραμείβεται ἡμαρ, 450  
 αἱ δὲ νέον σκοπέλοισιν ὑποσκιόωνται ἄρουραι,  
 δεικνύντων κλίνοντος ὑπὸ ζόφον ἡλίοιο,  
 τῆμος ἄρ' ἤδη πάντες ἐπὶ ψαμάθοισι βαθεῖαν  
 φυλλάδα χενάμενοι πολιοῦ πρόπαρ αἰγιαλοῖο  
 κέκλινθ' ἐξείης· παρὰ δέ σφισι μυρὶ ἔκειτο  
 εἶδατα, καὶ μέθυ λαρόν, ἀφυσσαμένων προχόησιν  
 οἰνοχόων· μετέπειτα δ' ἀμοιβαδὶς ἀλλήλοισιν  
 μυθεῦνθ', οἷά τε πολλὰ νέοι παρὰ δαιτὶ καὶ οἴνῳ  
 τερπνῶς ἐψιόωνται, ὅτ' ἄατος ὕβρις ἀπείη.  
 ἔνθ' αὖτ' Ἀλκονίδης μὲν ἀμήχανος εἰν εἰσι αὐτῷ 460  
 πορφύρεσκεν ἕκαστα κατηφιόωντι εἰοκῶς.  
 τὸν δ' ἄρ' ὑποφρασθεὶς μεγάλῃ ὀπὶ νείκεσεν Ἴδας·  
 'Ἀλκονίδη, τίνα τήνδε μετὰ φρεσὶ μῆτιν ἐλίσ-  
 σεις;  
 αὖδα ἐνὶ μέσσοισι τεὸν νόον. ἤέ σε δαμνᾷ  
 τάρβος ἐπιπλόμενον, τό τ' ἀνάλκιδας ἄνδρας  
 ἀτύζει;  
 ἴστω νῦν δόρυ θούρον, ὅτῳ περιώσιον ἄλλων  
 κῦδος ἐνὶ πτολέμοισιν αἰέρομαι, οὐδέ μ' ὀφέλλει  
 Ζεὺς τόσον, ὅσσάτιόν περ ἐμὸν δόρυ, μή νύ τι πῆμα  
 λοίγιον ἔσσεσθαι, μῆδ' ἀκράαντον ἄεθλον  
 Ἴδεω ἐσπομένοιο, καὶ εἰ θεὸς ἀντιόωτο. 470  
 τοῖόν μ' Ἀρήνηθεν ἀσπληγὴ κομίζεις.'  
 Ἦ, καὶ ἐπισχόμενος πλείον δέπας ἀμφοτέρησιν  
 πῖνε χαλίκρητον λαρόν μέθυ· δεύετο δ' οἴνῳ  
 χεῖλεα, κυάναϊ τε γενειάδες· οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν  
 πάντες ὁμῶς, Ἴδμων δὲ καὶ ἀμφαδίην ἀγόρευσεν·  
 'Δαιμόνιε, φρονέεις ὀλοφώια καὶ πάρος αὐτῷ.  
 ἤέ τοι εἰς αἶθρην ζωρὸν μέθυ θαρσαλέον κῆρ  
 οἰδάνει ἐν στήθεσσι, θεοὺς δ' ἀνέηκεν ἀτίζειν;

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them for the fate of Idmon. Now at the hour when the sun passes his noon-tide halt and the ploughlands are just being shadowed by the rocks, as the sun slopes towards the evening dusk, at that hour all the heroes spread leaves thickly upon the sand and lay down in rows in front of the hoary surf-line; and near them were spread vast stores of viands and sweet wine, which the cupbearers had drawn off in pitchers; afterwards they told tales one to another in turn, such as youths often tell when at the feast and the bowl they take delightful pastime, and insatiable insolence is far away. But here the son of Aeson, all helpless, was brooding over each event in his mind, like one oppressed with thought. And Idas noted him and assailed him with loud voice :

"Son of Aeson, what is this plan thou art turning over in mind. Speak out thy thought in the midst. Does fear come on and master thee, fear, that confounds cowards? Be witness now my impetuous spear, wherewith I win renown beyond all others (nor does Zeus aid me so much as my own spear), that no woe will be fatal, no venture will be unachieved, while Idas follows, even though a god should oppose thee. Such a helpmeet am I that thou bringest from Arene."

He spake, and holding a brimming goblet in both hands drank off the unmixed sweet wine; and his lips and dark cheeks were drenched with it; and all the heroes clamoured together and Idmon spoke out openly :

"Vain wretch, thou art devising destruction for thyself before the time. Does the pure wine cause thy bold heart to swell in thy breast to thy ruin, and has it set thee on to dishonour the gods? Other

οἱ δ', ὥστ' ἤθεοι Φοῖβω χορὸν ἢ ἐν Πυθοῖ  
 ἢ πον ἐν Ὀρτυγίῃ, ἢ ἐφ' ὕδασι νῆϊσιν Ἰσμηνοῖο  
 στησάμενοι, φόρμιγγος ὑπαὶ περὶ βωμόν ὁμαρτῇ  
 ἐμμελέως κραιπνοῖσι πέδον ῥήσσωσι πόδεσσιν·  
 ὥς οἱ ὑπ' Ὀρφῆος κιθάρῃ πέπληγον ἐρετμοῖς  
 πόντον λῖβρον ὕδωρ, ἐπὶ δὲ ῥόθια κλύζοντο·  
 ἀφρὸ δ' ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθα κελαινὴ κήκιεν ἄλμη  
 δεινὸν μορμύρουσα ἐρισθενέων μένει ἀνδρῶν.  
 στρίπτε δ' ὑπ' ἡελίῳ φλογὶ εἵκελα νηὸς ἰούσης  
 τεύχεα· μακρὰ δ' αἰὲν ἐλευκαίνοντο κέλευθοι,  
 ἀτραπὸς ὥς χλοεροῖο διειδομένη πεδίῳ.  
 πάντες δ' οὐρανόθεν λεῦσσον θεοὶ ἡματι κείνῳ  
 νῆα καὶ ἡμιθέων ἀνδρῶν μένος, οἱ τὸτ' ἄριστοι  
 πόντον ἐπιπλώεσκον· ἐπ' ἱεροτάτῃσι δὲ νύμφαι  
 Πηλιάδες κορυφῆσιν ἐθάμβεον εἰσορώσασαι  
 ἔργον Ἀθηναίης Ἰτωνίδος<sup>1</sup> ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτοὺς  
 ἥρωας χεῖρεσσιν ἐπικραδῶντας ἐρετμά.  
 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ἐξ ὑπῆυτον ὄρεος κίεν ἄγχι θαλάσσης  
 Χείρων Φιλλυρίδης, πολὺν δ' ἐπὶ κύματος ἄγῃ  
 τέγγε πύδας, καὶ πολλὰ βαρεῖν χειρὶ κελεύων  
 νόστον ἐπενφήμησεν ἀκηδέα νισσομένοισιν.  
 σὺν καὶ οἱ παράκοιτις ἐπωλένιον φορέουσα  
 Πηλεΐδην Ἀχιλῆα, φίλῳ δειδίσκετο πατρί.

Οἱ δ' ὅτε δὴ λιμένος περιηγέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν  
 φραδμοσύνη μῆτι τε δαΐφρονος Ἀγνιάδαο  
 Τίφυος, ὃς ῥ' ἐν χερσὶν εὐξοα τεχνήντως  
 πηδάλῳ ἀμφιέπεσκέ, ὅφρ' ἐμπεδὸν ἐξιθύνοι,  
 δὴ ῥα τότε μέγαν ἱστὸν ἐνεστήσαντο μεσόδμῃ,  
 δῆσαν δὲ προτόνοισι, τανυσσάμενοι ἐκάτερθεν,

<sup>1</sup> Ἰτωνίδος schol., L by correction: Τριτωνίδος G, five Parisian.

καὶ δ' αὐτοῦ λίνα χεῦαν, ἐπ' ἡλακάτην ἐρύσαντες.  
 ἐν δὲ λυγὺς πέσεν οὖρος· ἐπ' ἱκριόφιν δὲ κάλωας  
 ξεστῆσιν περόνησι διακριδὸν ἀμφιβαλόντες  
 Τισαίην εὐκηλοὶ ὑπὲρ δολιχὴν θεὸν ἄκρην.  
 τοῖσι δὲ φορμίζων εὐθήμονι μέλπεν ἀοιδῇ  
 Οἰάγροιο πάϊς νηοσσόον εὐπατέρειαν

570

\* Ἀρτεμιν, ἥ κείνας σκοπιάς ἄλως ἀμφιέπεσκεν  
 ῥυομένη καὶ γαῖαν Ἰωλκίδα· τοὶ δὲ βαθείης  
 ἰχθύες αἰσσοντες ὑπερθ' ἄλως, ἄμμιγα παύροις  
 ἄπλετοι, ὑγρὰ κέλευθα διασκαίροντες ἔποντο.  
 ὥς δ' ὅπῳτ' ἀγραῦλοιο κατ' ἰχνια σημαντήρος  
 μυρία μῆλ' ἐφέπονται ἄδην κεκορημένα ποίης  
 εἰς αὖλιν, ὃ δέ τ' εἰσι πάρος σύριγγι λυγείῃ  
 καλὰ μελιζόμενος νόμον μέλος· ὥς ἄρα τοίγε  
 ὠμάρτευν· τὴν δ' αἰὲν ἐπασσύτερος φέρειν οὖρος.

Αὐτίκα δ' ἡερίη πολυλήμιος αἶα Πελασγῶν  
 δύετο, Πηλιάδας δὲ παρεξήμειβον ἐρίπνας  
 αἰὲν ἐπιπροθέοντες· ἔδυνε δὲ Σηπιάς ἄκρη,  
 φαίνετο δ' εἰναλή Σκίαθος, φαίνοντο δ' ἄπωθεν  
 Πειρεσιαὶ Μάγνησά θ' ὑπεύδιος ἡπείροιο  
 ἄκτῃ καὶ τύμβος Δολοπήιος· ἐνθ' ἄρα τοίγε  
 ἐσπέριοι ἀνέμοιο παλιμπνοίησιν ἔκελσαν,  
 καὶ μιν κυδαίνοντες ὑπὸ κνέφας ἔντομα μῆλων  
 κεῖαν, ὀρινομένης ἄλως οἴδματι· διπλόα δ' ἄκταις  
 ἡματ' ἐλινύεσκον· ἀτὰρ τριτάτῳ προέηκαν  
 νῆα, τανυσσόμενοι περιώσιον ὑψόθι λαῖφος.  
 τὴν δ' ἄκτῃν Ἀφέτας Ἀργοὺς ἔτι κικλήσκουσιν.

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\* Ἐνθεν δὲ προτέρωσε παρεξέθεον Μελίβοϊαν,

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taut on each side, and from it they let down the sail when they had hauled it to the top-mast. And a breeze came down piping shrilly; and upon the deck they fastened the ropes separately round the well-polished pins, and ran quietly past the long Tisacan headland. And for them the son of Oeagrus touched his lyre and sang in rhythmical song of Artemis, saviour of ships, child of a glorious sire, who hath in her keeping those peaks by the sea, and the land of Iolcos; and the fishes came darting through the deep sea, great mixed with small, and followed gambolling along the watery paths. And as when in the track of the shepherd, their master, countless sheep follow to the fold that have fed to the full of grass, and he goes before gaily piping a shepherd's strain on his shrill reed; so these fishes followed; and a chasing breeze ever bore the ship onward.

And straightway the misty land of the Pelasgians, rich in cornfields, sank out of sight, and ever speeding onward they passed the rugged sides of Pelion; and the Sepian headland sank away, and Sciathus appeared in the sea, and far off appeared Pircsiae and the calm shore of Magnesia on the mainland and the tomb of Dolops; here then in the evening, as the wind blew against them, they put to land, and paying honour to him at nightfall burnt sheep as victims, while the sea was tossed by the swell: and for two days they lingered on the shore, but on the third day they put forth the ship, spreading on high the broad sail. And even now men call that beach Aphetae<sup>1</sup> of Argo.

Thence going forward they ran past Meliboea,

<sup>1</sup> i.e. The Starting.



ἀκτὴν τ' αἰγιαλὸν τε δυσήνεμον ἐκπερόωντες.<sup>1</sup>  
 ἤωθεν δ' Ὀμόλην αὐτοσχεδὸν εἰσορόωντες  
 πόντῳ κεκλιμένην παρεμέτρεον· οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν  
 μέλλον ὑπὲκ ποταμοῖο βαλεῖν Ἀμύροιο ῥέεθρα.  
 κείμεν δ' Εὐρυμένας τε πολυκλύστους τε φάραγγας  
 Ὀσσης Οὐλύμποιο τ' ἐσέδρακον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα  
 κλίτεια Παλλήναια, Καναστραίην ὑπὲρ ἄκρην,  
 ἦνυσαν ἐννύχιοι πνοῇ ἀνέμοιο θέοντες.  
 ἦρι δὲ νισσομένοισιν Ἄθω ἀνέτελλε κολώνη  
 Θρηκίη, ἥ τόσσον ἀπόπροθι Λῆμνον ἐοῦσαν,  
 ὅσσον ἐς ἔνδιόν κεν εὐστόλος ὀλκὰς ἀνύσσαι,  
 ἀκροτάτῃ κορυφῇ σκιᾷει, καὶ ἐσάχρι Μυρίνης.  
 τοῖσιν δ' αὐτῆμαρ μὲν ἄεν καὶ ἐπὶ κνέφας οὖρος  
 πᾶγχυ μάλ' ἀκραῆς, τετάνυστο δὲ λαίφεα νηός.  
 αὐτὰρ ἄμ' ἠελίοιο βολαῖς ἀνέμοιο λιπόντος  
 εἰρεσίῃ κραναὴν Σιντηίδα Λῆμνον ἵκοντο.

600

Ἐνθ' ἄμυδις πᾶς δῆμος ὑπερβασίῃσι γυναικῶν  
 νηλειῶς δέδμητο παροιχομένῳ λυκάβαντι.  
 δὴ γὰρ κουριδίας μὲν ἀπηνήναντο γυναῖκας  
 ἀνέρες ἐχθήραντες, ἔχον δ' ἐπὶ ληιάδεσσιν  
 τρηχὺν ἔρον, ἃς αὐτοὶ ἀγίνεον ἀντιπέρηθεν  
 Θρηκίην δροῦντες· ἐπεὶ χόλος αἰνὸς ὄπαζεν  
 Κύπριδος, οὐνεκά μιν γεράων ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἄτισσαν.  
 ὦ μέλειαι, ζήλοιο τ' ἐπισμυγερώς ἀκόρητοι.  
 οὐκ οἶον σὺν τῆσιν ἐοὺς ἔρραισαν ἀκοίτας  
 ἀμφ' εὐνῇ, πᾶν δ' ἄρσεν ὁμοῦ γένος, ὥς κεν ὀπίσσω  
 μήτινα λευγαλέοιο φόνου τίσειαν ἀμοιβήν.  
 οἷη δ' ἐκ πασέων γεραροῦ περιφείσατο πατὴρ  
 Ὑψιπύλεια Θόαντος, ὃ δὴ κατὰ δῆμον ἀνασσειν·

610

620

<sup>1</sup> ἐκπερόωντες Meineke : εἰσορόωντες MSS.

λάρνακι δ' ἐν κοίλῃ μιν ὑπερθ' ἄλως ἦκε φέρεσθαι,  
αἶ κε φύγῃ. καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐς Οἰνοίην ἐρύσαντο  
πρόσθεν, ἀτὰρ Σίκινόν γε μεθύστερον αὐδηθεῖσαν  
νῆσον, ἐπακτῆρες, Σικίνου ἄπο, τὸν ῥα Θόαντι  
νῆϊας Οἰνοίῃ νύμφῃ τέκεν εὐνηθεῖσα.

τῇσι δὲ βουκόλιαί τε βοῶν χάλκειά τε δύνειν  
τεύχεα, πυροφόρους τε διατμήξασθαι ἀρούρας  
ῥήτερον πάσῃσιν Ἀθηναίης πέλεν ἔργων,  
οἷς αἰεὶ τὸ πάροιθεν ὁμίλεον. ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔμπης 630  
ἦ θαμὰ δὴ πάπταινον ἐπὶ πλατὺν ὄμμασι πόντον  
δείματι λευγαλέῳ, ὅποτε Θρήικες ἴασιν.  
τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἐγγύθι νήσου ἐρεσσομένην ἴδον Ἀργῶ,  
αὐτίκα πασσυδίῃ πυλέων ἔκτοσθε Μυρίνης  
δῆμα τεύχεα δῦσαι ἐς αἰγιαλὸν προχέοντο,  
Θυιάσιν ὠμοβόροις ἱκελαι· φὰν γὰρ πού ἰκάνειν  
Θρήικας· ἡ δ' ἅμα τῇσι Θοαντιάς Ὑψιπύλεια  
δύν' ἐνὶ τεύχεσι πατρός. ἀμηχανίῃ δ' ἐχέοντο  
ἄφθογγοι· τοῖόν σφιν ἐπὶ δέος ἦωρεῖτο.

Τείως δ' αὐτ' ἐκ νηὸς ἀριστῆες προέηκαν 640  
Αἰθαλίδην κήρυκα θοόν, τῷπέρ τε μέλεσθαι  
ἀγγελίας καὶ σκῆπτρον ἐπέτρεπον Ἑρμείαιο,  
σφωιτέροιο τοκῆος, ὃ οἱ μνήστιν πόρε πάντων  
ἄφθιτον· οὐδ' ἔτι νῦν περ ἀποιχομένου Ἀχέροντος  
εἰνᾶς ἀπροφάτους ψυχῇν ἐπιδέδρομε λήθη  
ἀλλ' ἦγ' ἔμπεδον αἶν ἀμειβομένη μεμόρηται,  
ἄλλοθ' ὑποχθονίοις ἐναρίθμος, ἄλλοτ' ἐς αὐγὰς  
ἡελίου ζωοῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσιν. ἀλλὰ τί μύθους  
Αἰθαλίδεω χρειῶ με διηνεκέως ἀγορεύειν;  
ὅς ῥα τόθ' Ὑψιπύλῃν μειλίζατο δέχθαι ἰόντας 650

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Thoas, who was king over the people; and she sent him in a hollow chest to drift over the sea, if haply he should escape. And fishermen dragged him to shore at the island of Oenoe, formerly Oenoe, but afterwards called Sicinus from Sicinus, whom the water-nymph Oenoe bore to Thoas. Now for all the women to tend kine, to don armour of bronze, and to cleave with the plough-share the wheat-bearing fields, was easier than the works of Athena, with which they were busied aforetime. Yet for all that did they often gaze over the broad sea, in grievous fear against the Thracians' coming. So when they saw Argo being rowed near the island, straightway crowding in multitude from the gates of Myrine and clad in their harness of war, they poured forth to the beach like ravening Thyiades; for they deemed that the Thracians were come; and with them Hypsipyle, daughter of Thoas, donned her father's harness. And they streamed down speechless with dismay; such fear was wafted about them.

Meantime from the ship the chiefs had sent Aethalides the swift herald, to whose care they entrusted their messages and the wand of Hermes, his sire, who had granted him a memory of all things, that never grew dim; and not even now, though he has entered the unspeakable whirlpools of Acheron, has forgetfulness swept over his soul, but its fixed doom is to be ever changing its abode; at one time to be numbered among the dwellers beneath the earth, at another to be in the light of the sun among living men. But why need I tell at length tales of Aethalides? He at that time persuaded Hypsipyle to receive the new-comers as the

ἡματος ἀνομένοιο διὰ κνέφας· οὐδὲ μὲν ἡοὶ  
πείσματα νηὸς ἔλυσαν ἐπὶ πνοιῇ βορέας.

Λημνιάδες δὲ γυναῖκες ἀνὰ πτόλιν ἴζον ἰοῦσαι  
εἰς ἀγορὴν· αὐτὴ γὰρ ἐπέφραδεν Ὑψιπύλεια.  
καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ μάλα πᾶσαι ὁμιλαδὸν ἡγερέθοντο,  
αὐτίκ' ἄρ' ἦγ' ἐνὶ τῇσιν ἐποτρύνουσ' ἀγώρευεν·

“ὦ φίλαι, εἰ δ' ἄγε δὴ μενοεικέα δῶρα πόρωμεν  
ἀνδράσιν, οἷά τ' ἔοικεν ἄγειν ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔχοντας,  
ἦμα, καὶ μέθυ λαρόν, ἵν' ἔμπεδον ἔκτοθι πύργων  
μῖμνοιεν, μηδ' ἄμμε κατὰ χρεῖ᾽ ὀνείποντες  
ἀτρεκέως γνῶωσι, κακὴ δ' ἐπὶ πολλὸν ἴκηται  
βύξις· ἐπεὶ μέγα ἔργον ἐρέξαμεν, οὐδέ τι πάμπαν  
θυμηδὲς καὶ τοῖσι τόγ' ἔσσεται, εἰ κε δαείεν.  
ἡμετέρη μὲν νῦν τοίῃ παρενήνοθε μῆτις·  
ὕμεων δ' εἴ τις ἄρειον ἔπος μητίσεται ἄλλη,  
ἐγρέσθω· τοῦ γάρ τε καὶ εἵνεκα δεῦρο κάλεσσα.”

600

ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ θῶκον ἐφίζανε πατρὸς ἐοῖο  
λαῖνον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα φίλῃ τροφὸς ὦρτο Πολυξῶ,  
γῆραι δὴ ῥικνοῖσιν ἐπισκάζουσα πόδεσσιν,  
βύκτρῳ ἐρειδομένη, περὶ δὲ μενέαιν' ἀγορεύσαι.  
τῇ καὶ παρθενικαὶ πίσυρες σχεδὸν ἐδριόωντο  
ἀδμήτες λευκῇσιν ἐπιχνοάουσαι<sup>1</sup> ἐθειραῖς.  
στῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μέσση ἀγορῇ, ἀνὰ δ' ἔσχεθε δειρὴν  
ἦκα μόλις κυφοῖο μεταφρένου, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·

670

“Δῶρα μὲν, ὥς αὐτῇ περ ἐφανδάνει Ὑψιπυλείῃ,  
πέμπωμεν ξείνοισιν, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἄρειον ὑπῴσσαι.  
ὑμμι γε μὴν τίς μῆτις ἐπαύρεσθαι βιότοιο  
αἶ κεν ἐπιβρίσῃ Θρήϊξ στρατός, ἢ τίς ἄλλος  
δυσμενέων, ἅτε πολλὰ μετ' ἀνθρώποισι πέλονται;  
ὥς καὶ νῦν ὁδ' ὁμιλος ἀνωίστως ἐφικάνει.

680

<sup>1</sup> *ἐπιχνοάουσαι* Passow and recent editors.

εἰ δὲ τὸ μὲν μακίρων τις ἀποτρέποι, ἄλλα δ'  
ὀπίσσω

μυρία δημοτῆτος ὑπέρτερα πῆματα μένει,  
εὖτ' ἂν δὴ γεραραὶ μὲν ἀποφθινύθωσι γυναῖκες,  
κουρότεραι δ' ἄγονοι στυγερὸν ποτὶ γῆρας ἵκησθε.  
πῶς τῆμος βώσεσθε δυσάμμοροι; ἤε βαθείαις  
αὐτόματοι βόες ὕμιν ἐνιζευχθέντες ἀρούραις  
γειοτόμον νειοῖο διειρύσσουσιν ἄροτρον,  
καὶ πρόκα τελλομένου ἔτεος στάχυν ἀμήσονται;  
ἢ μὲν ἐγών, εἰ καὶ με τὰ νῦν ἔτι πεφρίκασιν  
Κῆρες, ἐπερχόμενον που ὀίομαι εἰς ἔτος ἤδη  
γαίαν ἐφέσσεσθαι, κτερέων ἀπὸ μοῖραν ἐλοῦσαν  
αὐτως, ἢ θέμις ἐστί, πάρος κακότητα πελάσσαι.  
ὀπλοτέρησι δὲ πῶγχι τάδε φράζεσθαι ἄνωγα.  
νῦν γὰρ δὴ παρὰ ποσσὶν ἐπήβολός ἐστ' ἄλεωρή,  
εἴ κεν ἐπιτρέψῃτε δόμους καὶ λήϊδα πᾶσαν  
ὑμετέρην ξείνοισι καὶ ἀγλαὸν ἄστνυ μέλεσθαι.'

Ὡς ἔφατ'· ἐν δ' ἀγορῇ πλήτο θρόον. εὐαδε γάρ  
σφιν

μῦθος. ἀτὰρ μετὰ τήνγε παρασχεδὸν αὐτὶς ἀνῶρτο  
Ῥψιπύλῃ, καὶ τοῖον ὑποβλήδην ἔπος ηὔδα·

Ἐἰ μὲν δὴ πάσῃσιν ἐφαιδάνει ἥδε μενοιωνή,  
ἤδη κεν μετὰ νῆα καὶ ἄγγελον ὀτρύναιμι.'

Ἡ ῥα, καὶ Ἰφινόην μετεφώνεεν ἄσπον ἐοῦσαν·  
Ὅρσο μοι, Ἰφινόη, τοῦδ' ἀνέρος ἀντιώωσα,

ἡμέτερόνδε μολεῖν, ὅστις στόλου ἡγεμονεύει,  
ὄφρα τί οἱ δῆμοιο ἔπος θυμῆρες ἐνίσπω·

καὶ δ' αὐτοὺς γαίης τε καὶ ἄστεος, αἴ κ' ἐθέλωσιν,  
κέκλεο θαρσαλέως ἐπιβαινέμεν εὐμενέοντας.'

Ἡ, καὶ ἔλυσ' ἀγορήν, μετὰ δ' εἰς ἐὸν ὥρτο  
νέεσθαι.

ὥς δὲ καὶ Ἰφινόη Μινύας ἵκεθ'. οἱ δ' ἐρέεινον,

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

blessed gods should turn this aside yet countless other woes, worse than battle, remain behind, when the aged women die off and ye younger ones, without children, reach hateful old age. How then will ye live, hapless ones? Will your oxen of their own accord yoke themselves for the deep ploughlands and draw the earth-cleaving share through the fallow, and forthwith, as the year comes round, reap the harvest? Assuredly, though the fates till now have shunned me in horror, I deem that in the coming year I shall put on the garment of earth, when I have received my meed of burial even so as is right, before the evil days draw near. But I bid you who are younger give good heed to this. For now at your feet a way of escape lies open, if ye trust to the strangers the care of your homes and all your stock and your glorious city."

Thus she spake, and the assembly was filled with clamour. For the word pleased them. And after her straightway Hypsipyle rose up again, and thus spake in reply.

"If this purpose please you all, now will I even send a messenger to the ship."

She spake and addressed Iphinoe close at hand: "Go, Iphinoe, and beg yonder man, whoever it is that leads this array, to come to our land that I may tell him a word that pleases the heart of my people, and bid the men themselves, if they wish, boldly enter the land and the city with friendly intent."

She spake, and dismissed the assembly, and thereafter started to return home. And so Iphinoe came to the Minyae; and they asked with what intent

# APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

εὖτε Θόας ἀστοίοισι πατὴρ ἐμὸς ἐμβασίλευεν,  
 τηνίκα Θρηκίην, οἷτ' ἀντία ναιετάουσιν,  
 δῆμον ἀπορνύμενοι λαοὶ πέρθεσκον ἐπαύλους 800  
 ἐκ νηῶν, αὐτῆσι δ' ἀπείρουνα ληίδα κούραις  
 δεῦρ' ἄγον· οὐλομένης δὲ θεᾶς πορσύνετο μῆτις  
 Κύπριδος, ἥτε σφιν θυμοφθόρον ἔμβαλεν ἄτην.  
 δὴ γὰρ κουριδίας μὲν ἀπέστρυγον, ἐκ δὲ μελάθρων,  
 ἥ ματὶν εἷξαντες, ἀπεσσεύοντο γυναῖκας·  
 αὐτὰρ λημίδεσσι δορικτήταις παρίανον,  
 σχέτλιοι. ἥ μὲν δηρὸν ἐτέτλαμεν, εἰ κέ ποτ' αὖτις  
 ὄψῃ μεταστρέψωσι νόον· τὸ δὲ διπλόον αἰεὶ  
 πῆμα κακὸν προύβαινε. ἀτιμάζοντο δὲ τέκνα  
 γνήσι' ἐνὶ μεγάροις, σκοτίῃ δ' ἀνέτελλε γενέθλη. 810  
 αὐτὼς δ' ἄδμητες κούραι,<sup>1</sup> χῆραί τ' ἐπὶ τῆσιν  
 μητέρες ἅμ' πτολίεθρον ἀτημελέες ἀλάληντο.  
 οὐδὲ πατὴρ ὀλίγον περ ἐῆς ἀλέγιζε θυγατρός,  
 εἰ καὶ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι δαΐζομένην ὀρόωτο  
 μητρειῆς ὑπὸ χερσὶν ἀτασθάλου· οὐδ' ἀπὸ μητρὸς  
 λώβην, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν, ἀεικέα παῖδες ἄμυνον·  
 οὐδὲ κασιγνήτοισι κασιγνήτῃ μέλε θυμῷ.  
 ἀλλ' οἶαι κούραι ληϊτίδες ἐν τε δόμοισιν  
 ἐν τε χοροῖς ἀγορῇ τε καὶ εἰλαπίνῃσι μέλονται· 820  
 εἰσόκε τις θεὸς ἄμμιν ὑπέρβιον ἔμβαλε θάρσος,  
 ἄψ' ἀναερχομένους Θρηκῶν ἀπο μηκέτι πύργοις  
 δέχθαι, ἢ ἡ φρονέοιεν ἅπερ θέμις, ἢ πῃ ἄλλη  
 αὐταῖς ληιάδεσσιν ἀφορμηθέντες ἴκοιντο.  
 οἱ δ' ἄρα θεσσάμενοι παίδων γένος, ὅσσον ἔλειπτο  
 ἄρσεν ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον, ἔβαν πάλιν, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ  
 Θρηκίης ἄροσιν χιονώδεα ναιετάουσιν.

<sup>1</sup> κούραι Rzsch : τε κέραι MSS.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

When my father Thoas reigned over the citizens, then our folk starting from their homes used to plunder from their ships the dwellings of the Thracians who live opposite, and they brought back hither measureless booty and maidens too. But the counsel of the baneful goddess Cypris was working out its accomplishment, who brought upon them soul-destroying infatuation. For they hated their lawful wives, and, yielding to their own mad folly, drove them from their homes; and they took to their beds the captives of their spear, cruel ones. Long in truth we endured it, if haply again, though late, they might change their purpose, but ever the bitter woe grew, twofold. And the lawful children were being dishonoured in their halls, and a bastard race was rising. And thus unmarried maidens and widowed mothers too wandered uncared for through the city; no father heeded his daughter ever so little even though he should see her done to death before his eyes at the hands of an insolent step-dame, nor did sons, as before, defend their mother against unseemly outrage; nor did brothers care at heart for their sister. But in their homes, in the dance, in the assembly and the banquet all their thought was only for their captive maidens; until some god put desperate courage in our hearts no more to receive our lords on their return from Thrace within our towers so that they might either heed the right or might depart and begone elsewhither, they and their captives. So they begged of us all the male children that were left in the city and went back to where even now they dwell on the snowy tilths of Thrace.



τῷ ὑμεῖς στρωφᾶσθ' ἐπιδήμιοι· εἰ δέ κεν αὖθι  
 ναιετάειν ἐθέλοις, καί τοι ἄδοι, ἢ τ' ἂν ἔπειτα  
 πατὴρ ἐμεῖο Θόαντος ἔχοις γέρας· οὐδέ τί σ' οἶω  
 γαῖαν ὀνόσσεσθαι· περὶ γὰρ βαθυλήϊος ἄλλων 830  
 νήσων, Αἰγαίῃ ὅσαι εἰν ἀλλ' ναιετάουσιν.

ἀλλ' ἄγε νῦν ἐπὶ νῆα κιῶν ἐτάροισιν ἐνίσπες  
 μύθους ἡμετέρους, μῆδ' ἔκτοθι μέμνε πόληος·

Ἴσκεν, ἀμαλδύνουσα φόνου τέλος, οἶον ἐτύχθη  
 ἀνδράσιν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·

Ἵψιπύλη, μάλα κεν θυμηδέος ἀντιάσαιμεν  
 χρησμοσύνης, ἣν ἄμμι σέθεν χατέουσιν ὀπάξεις.  
 εἰμι δ' ὑπότροπος αὐτῇ ἀνὰ πτόλιν, εὖτ' ἂν ἕκαστα  
 ἐξείπω κατὰ κόσμον· ἀνακτορή δὲ μελέσθω  
 σοίγ' αὐτῇ καὶ νήσος· ἔγωγε μὲν οὐκ ἀθερίζων 840  
 χάζομαι, ἀλλὰ με λυγροὶ ἐπισπέρχουσιν ἄεθλοι·

Ἦ, καὶ δεξιτερῆς χειρὸς θίγην· αἶψα δ' ὀπίσσω  
 βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ τόνγε νεήνιδες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι  
 μυρίαὶ εἰλίσσοντο κεχαρμέναι, ὄρφα πυλάων  
 ἐξέμολεν· μετέπειτα δ' ἐντροχάλοισιν ἀμάξαις  
 ἀκτὴν εἰσαπέβαν, ξεινήια πολλὰ φέρουσai,  
 μῦθον ὅτ' ἤδη πάντα διηνεκέως ἀγόρευσεν,  
 τὸν ῥα καλεσσαμένη διεπέφραδεν Ἵψιπύλεια·  
 καὶ δ' αὐτοὺς ξεινοῦσθαι ἐπὶ σφέα δώματ' ἄγεσκον  
 ῥηιδίως· Κύπρις γὰρ ἐπὶ γλυκὺν ἥμερον ὥρσεν 850  
 Ἥφαίστοιο χάριν πολυμήτιος, ὅφρα κεν αὐτὶς  
 ναίηται μετόπισθεν ἀκήρατος ἀνδράσι Λῆμνος.

Ἐνθ' ὁ μὲν Ἵψιπύλης βασιλῆιον ἐς δόμον ὤρτο  
 Λίσονίδης· οἱ δ' ἄλλοι ὕπνῃ καὶ ἔκυσαν ἕκαστος,  
 Ἥρακλῆος ἀνευθεν, ὁ γὰρ παρὰ νηὶ λέλειπτο

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK 1

Do ye therefore stay and settle with us; and shouldst thou desire to dwell here, and this finds favour with thee, assuredly thou shalt have the prerogative of my father Thoas; and I deem that thou wilt not scorn our land at all; for it is deep-soiled beyond all other islands that lie in the Aegæan sea. But come now, return to the ship and relate my words to thy comrades, and stay not outside our city."

She spoke, glozing over the murder that had been wrought upon the men; and Jason addressed her in answer:

"Hypsipyle, very dear to our hearts is the help we shall meet with, which thou grantest to us who need thee. And I will return again to the city when I have told everything in order due. But let the sovereignty of the island be thine; it is not in scorn I yield it up, but grievous trials urge me on."

He spake, and touched her right hand; and quickly he turned to go back: and round him the young maids on every side danced in countless numbers in their joy till he passed through the gates. And then they came to the shore in smooth-running wains, bearing with them many gifts, when now he had related from beginning to end the speech which Hypsipyle had spoken when she summoned them; and the maids readily led the men back to their homes for entertainment. For Cypris stirred in them a sweet desire, for the sake of Hephaestus of many counsels, in order that Lemnos might be again inhabited by men and not be ruined.

Thereupon Aeson's son started to go to the royal home of Hypsipyle; and the rest went each his way as chance took them, all but Heracles; for he of his

αὐτὸς ἐκὼν παῦροί τε διακρινθέντες ἐταῖροι.  
 αὐτίκα δ' ἄστυ χοροῖσι καὶ εἰλαπίνῃσι γεγῆθει  
 καπνῷ κνισθέντι περίπλεον· ἔξοχα δ' ἄλλων  
 ἀθανάτων· Ἡρῆς υἱὰ κλυτὸν ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτὴν  
 Κύπριν ἀοιδῆσιν θυέεσσί τε μειλίσσοντο.  
 ἀμβολίῃ δ' εἰς ἡμαρ αἰεὶ ἐξ ἡματος ἦεν  
 ναυτιλίας· δηρὸν δ' ἂν ἐλίνυον αὖθι μένοντες,  
 εἰ μὴ ἀολλίσσας ἐτάρους ἀπάνευθε γυναικῶν  
 Ἡρακλῆς τοίοισιν ἐνιπτάζων μετέειπεν·

860

Ἰδαιμόνιοι, πάτρης ἐμφύλιον αἷμ' ἀποέργει  
 ἡμέας; ἦε γάμων ἐπιδευέες ἐνθάδ' ἔβημεν  
 κεῖθεν, ὄνοσσάμενοι πολιήτιδας; αὖθι δ' ἔαδεν  
 ναίοντας λιπαρὴν ἄροσιν Λήμνοιο ταμέσθαι;  
 οὐ μὰν εὐκλειεῖς γε σὺν ὀθνεῖσσι γυναιξίν  
 ἐσσόμεθ' ὧδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐελμένοι· οὐδέ τι κῶας  
 αὐτόματον δώσει τις ἐλὼν θεὸς εὐξαμένοισιν.  
 ἴομεν αὖτις ἕκαστοι ἐπὶ σφέα· τὸν δ' ἐνὶ λέκτροις  
 Ὑψιπύλης εἶατε πανήμερον, εἰσόκε Λήμνον  
 παισὶν ἐσανδρώσῃ, μεγάλη τέ ἐβάζις ἴκηται·

870

Ὡς νεέκεσσαν ὄμιλον· ἐναντία δ' οὐ νύ τις ἔτλη  
 ὄμματ' ἀνασχεθέειν, οὐδὲ προτιμυθήσασθαι·  
 ἀλλ' αὐτως ἀγορήθεν ἐπαρτίζοντο νέεσθαι  
 σπερχόμενοι. ταὶ δέ σφιν ἐπέδραμον, εὐτ' ἐδάησαν.  
 ὥς δ' ὅτε λείρια καλὰ περιβρομέουσι μέλισσαι  
 πέτρης ἐκχύμεναι σιμβληίδος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν  
 ἐρσήεις γάνυται, ταὶ δὲ γλυκὺν ἄλλοτε ἄλλον  
 καρπὸν ἀμέργουσιν πεποτημέναι· ὥς ἤρα ταίγε  
 ἐνδυκῆς ἀνέρας ἀμφὶ κινυρόμεναι προχέοντο,  
 χερσὶ τε καὶ μύθοισιν ἐδεικανόωντο ἕκαστον,

880

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

own will was left behind by the ship and a few chosen comrades with him. And straightway the city rejoiced with dances and banquets, being filled with the steam of sacrifice; and above all the immortals they propitiated with songs and sacrifices the illustrious son of Hera and Cypris herself. And the sailing was ever delayed from one day to another; and long would they have lingered there, had not Heracles, gathering together his comrades apart from the women, thus addressed them with reproachful words:

"Wretched men, does the murder of kindred keep us from our native land? Or is it in want of marriage that we have come hither from thence, in scorn of our countrywomen? Does it please us to dwell here and plough the rich soil of Lemnos? No fair renown shall we win by thus tarrying so long with stranger women; nor will some god seize and give us at our prayer a fleece that moves of itself. Let us then return each to his own; but him leave ye to rest all day long in the embrace of Hypsipyle until he has peopled Lemnos with men-children, and so there come to him great glory."

Thus did he chide the band; but no one dared to meet his eye or to utter a word in answer. But just as they were in the assembly they made ready their departure in all haste, and the women came running towards them, when they knew their intent. And as when bees hum round fair lilies pouring forth from their hive in the rock, and all around the dewy meadow rejoices, and they gather the sweet fruit, flitting from one to another; even so the women eagerly poured forth, clustering round the men with loud lament, and greeted each one with hands and

εὐχόμεναι μακάρεσσιν ἀπήμονα νόστον ὀπάσσαι.  
ὥς δὲ καὶ Ὑψιπύλῃ ἡρήσατο χεῖρας ἐλοῦσα  
Αἰσυνίδεω, τὰ δὲ οἱ ῥέε δάκρυα χίττει ἰόντος·

Ἦλυσσο, καὶ σὲ θεοὶ σὺν ἀπηρέσιν αὐτὶς ἐταίροις  
χρῦσειον βασιλῆι δέρος κομίσειαν ἄγοντα  
αὐτὰς, ὥς ἐθέλεις καὶ τοι φίλον· ἦδε δὲ νῆσος 890  
σκῆπτρά τε πατρὸς ἐμεῖο παρέσσεται, ἦν καὶ  
ὀπίσω

δὴ ποτε νοστήσας ἐθέλῃς ἄψορρον ἰκέσθαι.  
ῥηιδίως δ' ἂν εἰοὶ καὶ ἀπείρουνα λαὸν ἀγείραις  
ἄλλων ἐκ πολίων. ἀλλ' οὐ σύγχε τήνδε μενοινὴν  
σχῆσεις, οὐτ' αὐτὴ προτιώσσομαι ὧδε τελεῖσθαι.  
μῶσο μὴν ἀπεών περ ὁμῶς καὶ νόστιμος ἦδη  
Ὑψιπύλῃς· λίπε δ' ἡμῖν ἔπος, τό κεν ἐξανύσαιμι  
πρόφρων, ἦν ἄρα δὴ με θεοὶ δώωσι τεκέσθαι.

Τὴν δ' αὖτ' Αἰσωνος υἱὸς ἀγαιόμενος προσέειπεν·  
Ὑψιπύλῃ, τὰ μὲν οὕτω ἐναΐσιμα πάντα γένοιτο 900  
ἐκ μακίρων· τὴν δ' ἐμέθεν πέρι θυμὸν ἀρείω  
ἴσχαν', ἐπεὶ πάτρην μοι ἄλις Πελῖας ἔκῃτι  
ναιετάειν· μούνόν με θεοὶ λύσειαν ἀέθλων.  
εἰ δ' οὐ μοι πέπρωται ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι  
τηλοῦ ἀναπλώοντι, σὺ δ' ἄρσενα παῖδα τέκῃαι,  
πέμπε μιν ἡβήσαντα Πελασγίδος ἔνδον Ἰωλκοῦ  
πατρί τ' ἐμῷ καὶ μητρὶ δύης ἄκος, ἦν ἄρα τούσγχε  
τέτμη ἔτι ζῶοντας, ἵν' ἀνδιχα τοῖο ἀνακτος  
σφοῖσιν πορσύνωνται ἐφέστιοι ἐν μεγάροισιν.

Ἦ, καὶ ἔβαιν' ἐπὶ νῆα παροίτατος· ὥς δὲ καὶ 910  
ἄλλοι

βαῖνον ἀριστῆες· λάζοντο δὲ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ  
ἐνσχερῶ ἐζόμενοι· πρυμνήσια δὲ σφισιν Ἄργος  
λύσεν ὑπὲκ πέτρης ἁλιμυρέος. ἐνθ' ἄρα τοίγχε

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

voice, praying the blessed gods to grant him a safe return. And so Hypsipyle too prayed, seizing the hands of Aeson's son, and her tears flowed for the loss of her lover:

"Go, and may heaven bring thee back again with thy comrades unharmed, bearing to the king the golden fleece, even as thou wilt and thy heart desireth; and this island and my father's sceptre will be awaiting thee, if on thy return hereafter thou shouldst choose to come hither again; and easily couldst thou gather a countless host of men from other cities. But thou wilt not have this desire, nor do I myself forbode that so it will be. Still remember Hypsipyle when thou art far away and when thou has returned; and leave me some word of bidding, which I will gladly accomplish, if haply heaven shall grant me to be a mother."

And Aeson's son in admiration thus replied: "Hypsipyle, so may all these things prove propitious by the favour of the blessed gods. But do thou hold a nobler thought of me, since by the grace of Pelias it is enough for me to dwell in my native land; may the gods only release me from my toils. But if it is not my destiny to sail afar and return to the land of Hellas, and if thou shouldst bear a male child, send him when grown up to Pelasgian Iolcus, to heal the grief of my father and mother if so be that he find them still living, in order that, far away from the king, they may be cared for by their own hearth in their home."

He spake, and mounted the ship first of all; and so the rest of the chiefs followed, and, sitting in order, seized the oars; and Argus loosed for them the hawsers from under the sea-beaten rock. Where-

κόπτον ὕδωρ δολιχῆσιν ἐπικρατέως ἐλάττησιν.  
 ἐσπέριοι δ' Ὀρφῆος ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔκελσαν  
 νῆσον ἐς Ἥλέκτρης Ἀτλαντίδος, ὅφρα δαέντες  
 ἀρρήτους ἀγανῆσι τελεσφορίησι θέμιστας  
 σωότεροι κρυόεσσαν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα ναυτίλλουντο.  
 τῶν μὲν ἔτ' οὐ προτέρω μυθήσομαι· ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτῇ  
 νῆσος ὁμῶς κεχάροίτο καὶ οἱ λάχον ὄργια κείνα 920  
 δαίμονες ἐνναέται, τὰ μὲν οὐ θέμις ἄμιν ἀείδειν.

Κεῖθεν δ' εἰρεσίῃ Μέλανος διὰ βένθεα πόντου  
 ἰέμενοι τῇ μὲν Θρηκῶν χθόνα, τῇ δὲ περαίην  
 Ἰμβρον ἔχον καθύπερθε· νέον γε μὲν ἡελίοιο  
 δυομένου Χερόνησον ἐπὶ προύχουσαν ἴκοντο.  
 ἐνθα σφιν λαιψήρὸς ἦν νότος, ἰστία δ' οὐρῶ  
 στησάμενοι κούρης Ἀθαμαντίδος αἰπὰ ῥέεθρα  
 εἰσέβαλον· πέλαγος δὲ τὸ μὲν καθύπερθε λέλειπτο  
 ἥρι, τὸ δ' ἐννύχιοι Ῥοιτειάδος ἐνδοθεν ἀκτῆς  
 μέτρεον, Ἰδαίην ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαίαν ἔχοντες. 930  
 Δαρδανίην δὲ λιπόντες ἐπιπροσέβαλλον Ἀβύδω,  
 Περκώτην δ' ἐπὶ τῇ καὶ Ἀβαρνίδος ἡμαθόεσσαν  
 ἡμόνα ζαθέην τε παρήμειβον Πιτύειαν.  
 καὶ δὴ τοίγ' ἐπὶ νυκτὶ διάνδιχα νηὸς ἰούσης  
 δίην πορφύροντα δεινύσαν Ἑλλήσποντον.

Ἔστι δέ τις αἰπεῖα Προποντίδος ἐνδοθι νῆσος  
 τυτθὸν ἀπὸ Φρυγίης πολυληγίου ἡπείριοιο  
 εἰς ἄλα κεκλιμένη, ὅσσον τ' ἐπιμύρεται ἰσθμὸς  
 χέρσῳ ἐπιπρηγῆς καταειμένος. ἐν δὲ οἱ ἀκταὶ  
 ἀμφίδυμοι, κεῖνται δ' ὑπὲρ ὕδατος Αἰσθήποιο· 940  
 Ἀρκτων μιν καλέουσιν ὄρος περιναιετάοντες·

καὶ τὸ μὲν ὑβρίζεται τε καὶ ἄγριοι ἐνναίουσιν  
 Γηγενέες, μέγα θαῦμα περικτιόνεσσιν ἰδέσθαι·  
 ἔξ γὰρ ἐκάστω χεῖρες ὑπέρβιοι ἠερέθονται,  
 αἱ μὲν ἀπὸ στιβαρῶν ὤμων δύο, ταὶ δ' ὑπένερθεν  
 τέσσαρες αἰνοτάτησιν ἐπὶ πλεύρῃς ἀραρυῖαι.  
 ἰσθμὸν δ' αὖ πεδῖον τε Δολιόνας ἀμφενέμοντο  
 ἀνέρες· ἐν δ' ἥρωι Αἰνῆος υἱὸς ἀνασσει  
 Κύζικος, ὃν κούρη δίῳ τέκεν Εὐσώροιο  
 Αἰνῆτη. τοὺς δ' οὔτι καὶ ἔκπαγλοί περ ἔόντες 950  
 Γηγενέες σίνοντο, Ποσειδάωνος ἀρωγῇ·  
 τοῦ γὰρ ἔσαν τὰ πρῶτα Δολιόνας ἐκγεγαῶτες.  
 ἐνθ' Ἀργῶ προὔτυψεν ἐπειγομένη ἀνέμοισιν  
 Θρηκίους, Καλὸς δὲ λιμὴν ὑπέδεκτο θέουσας.  
 κεῖσε καὶ εὐναίης ὀλίγον λίθον ἐκλύσαντες  
 Τίφυος ἐννεσίησιν ὑπὸ κρήνῃ ἐλίποντο,  
 κρήνῃ ὑπ' Ἀρτακίῃ· ἕτερον δ' ἔλον, ὅστις ἀρήρει,  
 βριθύν· ἀτὰρ κεῖνόν γε θεοπροπίαϊς Ἐκάτοιο  
 Νηλεΐδαι μετόπισθεν Ἰῖοι ἰδρύσαντο  
 ἱερὸν, ἧ θέμις ἦεν, Ἰησονίης ἐν Ἀθήνῃς. 960  
 Τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις φιλότῃτι Δολιόνας ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτὸς  
 Κύζικος ἀντήσαντες ὅτε στόλον ἠδὲ γενέθλην  
 ἔκλουν, οἵτινες εἶεν, εὐξείνως ἀρέσαντο,  
 καὶ σφῆας εἰρεσίῃ πέπιθον προτέρωσσε κιόντας  
 ἄστεος ἐν λιμένι πρυμνήσια νηὸς ἀνάψαι.  
 ἐνθ' οἷγ' Ἐκβασίῳ βωμὸν θέσαν Ἀπόλλωνι  
 εἰσάμενοι παρὰ θίνα, θυηπολίας τ' ἐμέλοντο.  
 δῶκεν δ' αὐτὸς ἀναξ λαρὸν μέθῃ ξενομένοισιν  
 μῆλ' αὖθ' ὁμοῦ· δὴ γὰρ οἱ ἦν φάτις, εὖτ' ἂν ἴκωνται  
 ἀνδρῶν ἠρώων θεῖος στόλος, αὐτίκα τόνγε 970  
 μέλιχον ἀντιάαν, μηδὲ πτολέμοιο μέλεσθαι.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

And insolent and fierce men dwell there, Earthborn, a great marvel to the neighbours to behold; for each one has six mighty hands to lift up, two from his sturdy shoulders, and four below, fitting close to his terrible sides. And about the isthmus and the plain the Doliones had their dwelling, and over them Cyzicus son of Aeneus was king, whom Aenete the daughter of goodly Eusoras bare. But these men the Earthborn monsters, fearful though they were, in nowise harried, owing to the protection of Poseidon; for from him had the Doliones first sprung. Thither Argo pressed on, driven by the winds of Thrace, and the Fair haven received her as she sped. There they cast away their small anchor-stone by the advice of Tiphys and left it beneath a fountain, the fountain of Artacie; and they took another meet for their purpose, a heavy one; but the first, according to the oracle of the Far-Darter, the Ionians, sons of Neleus, in after days laid to be a sacred stone, as was right, in the temple of Jasonian Athena.

Now the Doliones and Cyzicus himself all came together to meet them with friendliness, and when they knew of the quest and their lineage welcomed them with hospitality, and persuaded them to row further and to fasten their ship's hawsers at the city harbour. Here they built an altar to Ecbasian<sup>1</sup> Apollo and set it up on the beach, and gave heed to sacrifices. And the king of his own bounty gave them sweet wine and sheep in their need; for he had heard a report that whenever a godlike band of heroes should come, straightway he should meet it with gentle words and should have no thought of

<sup>1</sup> i.e. god of disembarkation.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK 1

war. As with Jason, the soft down was just blooming on his chin, nor yet had it been his lot to rejoice in children, but still in his palace his wife was untouched by the pangs of child-birth, the daughter of Percosian Merope, fair-haired Cleite, whom lately by priceless gifts he had brought from her father's home from the mainland opposite. But even so he left his chamber and bridal bed and prepared a banquet among the strangers, casting all fears from his heart. And they questioned one another in turn. Of them would he learn the end of their voyage and the injunctions of Pelias; while they enquired about the cities of the people round and all the gulf of the wide Propontis; but further he could not tell them for all their desire to learn. In the morning they climbed mighty Dindymum that they might themselves behold the various paths of that sea; and they brought their ship from its former anchorage to the harbour, Chytus; and the path they trod is named the path of Jason.

But the Earthborn men on the other side rushed down from the mountain and with crags below blocked up the mouth of vast Chytus towards the sea, like men lying in wait for a wild beast within. But there Heracles had been left behind with the younger heroes and he quickly bent his back-springing bow against the monsters and brought them to earth one after another; and they in their turn raised huge ragged rocks and hurled them. For these dread monsters too, I ween, the goddess Hera, bride of Zeus, had nurtured to be a trial for Heracles. And therewithal came the rest of the martial heroes returning to meet the foe before they reached the

Γηγενέων ἥρωες ἀρήιοι, ἡμὲν οἰστοῖς  
 ἡδὲ καὶ ἐγχαίρσι δεδεγμένοι, εἰσόκε πάντας  
 ἀντιβίην ἀσπερχές ὀρινομένους ἐδάϊξαν.  
 ὥς δ' ὅτε δούρατα μακρὰ νέον πελέκεσσι τυπέντα  
 ὕλοτόμοι στοιχηδὸν ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖνι βάλῳσιν,  
 ὄφρα νοτισθέντα κρατεροὺς ἀνεχοίατο γόμφους·  
 ὥς οἱ ἐνὶ ξυνοχῇ λιμένος πολιοῖο τέταντο  
 ἐξείης, ἄλλοι μὲν ἐς ἀλμυρὸν ἀθρόοι ὕδωρ  
 δύπτοντες κεφαλὰς καὶ στήθεα, γυῖα δ' ὑπερθεν  
 χέρσῳ τεινάμενοι· τοὶ δ' ἔμπαλιν, αἰγιαλοῖο  
 κρύατα μὲν ψαμάθοισι, πύδας δ' εἰς βένθος  
 ἔρειδον,

1000

ἄμφω ἅμ' οἴωνοῖσι καὶ ἰχθύσι κύρμα γενέσθαι.  
 "Ἡρωες δ', ὅτε δὴ σφιν ἀταρβῆς ἔπλετ' ἄεθλος,  
 δὴ τότε πείσματα νηὸς ἐπὶ πνοιῆς ἀνέμοιο  
 λυσάμενοι προτέρωσε διέξ' ἀλὸς οἶδμα νέοντο.  
 ἢ δ' ἔθεεν λαΐφεσσι πανήμερος· οὐ μὲν ἰούσης  
 νυκτὸς ἔτι ῥιπὴ μένεν ἔμπεδον, ἀλλὰ θύελλαι  
 ἀντίαι ἀρπάγδην ὀπίσω φέρον, ὄφρ' ἐπέλασσαν  
 αὐτὶς ἐυξείνοισι Δολίοσιν. ἐκ δ' ἄρ' ἔβησαν  
 αὐτονυχί· Ἱερὴ δὲ φατίζεται ἡδ' ἔτι πέτρη,  
 ἣ περὶ πείσματα νηὸς ἐπεσσύμενοι ἐβάλοντο.  
 οὐδέ τις αὐτὴν νῆσον ἐπιφραδέως ἐνόησεν  
 ἔμμεναι· οὐδ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ Δολίονες ἀψ' ἀνιόντας  
 ἥρωας νημερτὲς ἐπήμισαν· ἀλλὰ πού ἀνδρῶν  
 Μακρίων εἴσαντο Πελασγικὸν ἄρεα κέλσαι.  
 τῷ καὶ τεύχεα δύντες ἐπὶ σφίσι χεῖρας ἄειραν.  
 σὺν δ' ἔλασαν μελίας τε καὶ ἀσπίδας ἀλλήλοισιν  
 ὀξείῃ ἱκελοὶ ῥιπῇ πυρός, ἣ τ' ἐνὶ θάμνοισι  
 ἀνάλεοισι πεσοῦσα κορύσσεται· ἐν δὲ κυδοιμὸς  
 δεινὸς τε ζαμενὴς τε Δολιονίῳ πέσε δῆμῳ.

1010

1020

οὐδ' ὄγε δημοσῆτος ὑπὲρ μόρον αὖτις ἔμελλεν 1030  
 οἴκαδε νυμφιδίους θαλάμους καὶ λέκτρον ἰκέσθαι.  
 ἀλλὰ μιν Αἰσονίδης τετραμμένον ἰθὺς ἐοῖο  
 πλῆξεν ἐπαίξας στῆθος μέσον, ἀμφὶ δὲ δουρὶ  
 ὀστέον ἐρραίσθη· ὁ δ' ἐν ψαμάθοισιν ἐλυσθεὶς  
 μοῖραν ἀνέπλησεν. τὴν γὰρ θέμις οὐποτ' ἀλύξαι  
 θνητοῖσιν· πάντα δὲ περὶ μέγα πέπταται ἔρκος.  
 ὥς τὸν οἰόμενόν που ἄδευκέος ἔκτοθεν ἄτης  
 εἶναι ἀριστήων αὐτῇ ὑπὸ νυκτὶ πέδησεν  
 μαρνάμενον κείνοισιν· πολεῖς δ' ἐπαρηγόνες ἄλλοι 1040  
 ἔκταθεν· Ἡρακλῆς μὲν ἐνήρατο Τηλεκλῆα  
 ἠδὲ Μεγαβρόντην· Σφόδριν δ' ἐνάρειξεν Ἀκαστος·  
 Πηλεὺς δὲ Ζέλυν εἶλεν ἀρηίθοόν τε Γέφυρον.  
 αὐτὰρ ἐνμμελὴς Τελαμὼν Βασιλῆα κατέκτα.  
 Ἰδας δ' αὖ Προμέα, Κλυτίος δ' Ἰάκινθον ἔπεφνεν,  
 Τυνδαρίδαι δ' ἀμφω Μεγαλοσσάκεα Φλογίον τε.  
 Οἰνείδης δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἔλεν θρασὺν Ἰτυμονῆα  
 ἠδὲ καὶ Ἀρτακέα, πρόμον ἀνδρῶν· οὓς ἔτι πάντας  
 ἐνναέται τιμαῖς ἡρώσι κυδαίνουσιν.  
 οἱ δ' ἄλλοι εἷξαντες ὑπέτρεσαν, ἥτε κίρκους  
 ὠκυπέτας ἀγεληδὸν ὑποτρέσσωσι πέλειαι. 1050  
 ἐς δὲ πύλας ὁμάδῳ πέσον ἀθρόοι· αἶψα δ' αὐτῆς  
 πλῆτο πόλις στονόεντος ὑποτροπῆι πολέμοιο.  
 ἠῶθεν δ' ὅλοῃν καὶ ἀμήχανον εἰσενόησαν  
 ἀμπλακίην ἀμφω· στυγερὸν δ' ἄχος εἶλεν ἰδόντας  
 ἥρωας Μινύας Αἰνῆμον υἷα πάροιθεν  
 Κύζικον ἐν κονίησι καὶ αἵματι πεπτηῶτα.  
 ἥματα δὲ τρία πάντα γόων, τίλλοντό τε χαίτας  
 αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς λαοὶ τε Δολιόνης. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα  
 τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις σὺν τεύχεσι δινηθέντες  
 τύμβῳ ἐνεκτερέϊξαν, ἐπειρήσαντό τ' ἀέθλων, 1060  
 ἢ θέμις, ἀμ πεδίον λειμώνιον, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ

ἀγκέχυνται τόδε σῆμα καὶ ὀψυγόνοισιν ἰδέσθαι.  
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἄλοχος Κλείτη φθιμένοιο λείλειπτο  
 οὐ πόσιος μετόπισθε· κακῷ δ' ἐπὶ κύντερον ἄλλο  
 ἤνυσεν, ἀψαμένη βρόχον αὐχένι. τὴν δὲ καὶ αὐταὶ  
 νύμφαι ἀποφθιμένην Ἀλσηίδες ὠδύραντο·  
 καὶ οἱ ἀπὸ βλεφάρων ὅσα δάκρυα χεῖαν ἔραζε,  
 πάντα τάγε κρήνην τεύξαν θεαί, ἣν καλέουσιν  
 Κλείτην, δυστήνοιο περικλεῆς οὐνομα νύμφης.  
 αἰνότατον δὴ κείνο Δολιουίησι γυναιξίν  
 ἀνδράσι τ' ἐκ Διὸς ἡμᾶρ ἐπήλυθεν· οὐδὲ γὰρ αὐτῶν  
 ἔτλη τις πάσσασθαι ἔδητύος, οὐδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν  
 ἐξ ἀχέων ἔργοιο μυληφάτου ἐμνώοντο·  
 ἀλλ' αὐτως ἄφλεκτα διαζώεσκον ἔδοντες.  
 ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν, εὐτ' ἂν σφιν ἐτήσια χύτλα χέωνται  
 Κύζικον ἐνναίοντες Ἰάονες, ἔμπεδον αἰεὶ  
 πανδήμοιο μύλης πελάνους ἐπαλετρεύουσιν.  
 Ἐκ δὲ τόθεν τρηχεῖαι ἀνῆρθησαν ἀελλαι  
 ἡμαθ' ὁμοῦ νύκτας τε δυώδεκα, τοὺς δὲ καταῦθι  
 ναυτίλλεσθαι ἔρυκον. ἐπιπλομένη δ' ἐνὶ νυκτὶ  
 ὄλλοι μὲν ῥα πάρος δεδμημένοι εὐνάζοντο  
 ὕπνῳ ἀριστῆες πύματον λάχος· αὐτὰρ Ἀκαστός  
 Μόψος τ' Ἀμπυκίδης ἀδινά κνώσσοντας ἔρυκτο.  
 ἢ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὲρ ξανθοῖο καρήατος Λίσονίδαο  
 πωτᾶτ' ἄλκυονις λιγυρῇ ὀπὶ θεσπίζουσα  
 λῆξιν ὀρινομένων ἀνέμων· συνέηκε δὲ Μόψος  
 ἀκταίης ὀρνιθος ἐναίσιμον ὅσσαν ἀκούσας.  
 καὶ τὴν μὲν θεὸς αὐτὶς ἀπέτραπεν, ἴξε δ' ὕπερθεν  
 νηίου ἀφλάστοιο μετήορος αἴξασα.  
 τὸν δ' ὅγε κεκλιμένον μαλακοῖς ἐνὶ κώεσιν οἴῳ  
 κινήσας ἀνέγειρε παρασχεδόν, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·

1070

1080

1090

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

"Son of Aeson, thou must climb to this temple on rugged Dindynum and propitiate the mother<sup>1</sup> of all the blessed gods on her fair throne, and the stormy blasts shall cease. For such was the voice I heard but now from the halcyon, bird of the sea, which, as as it flew above thee in thy slumber, told me all. For by her power the winds and the sea and all the earth below and the snowy seat of Olympus are complete; and to her, when from the mountains she ascends the mighty heaven, Zeus himself, the son of Cronos, gives place. In like manner the rest of the immortal blessed ones reverence the dread goddess."

Thus he spake, and his words were welcome to Jason's ear. And he arose from his bed with joy and woke all his comrades hurriedly and told them the prophecy of Mopsus the son of Ampycus. And quickly the younger men drove oxen from their stalls and began to lead them to the mountain's lofty summit. And they loosed the hawsers from the sacred rock and rowed to the Thracian harbour; and the heroes climbed the mountain, leaving a few of their comrades in the ship. And to them the Macrian heights and all the coast of Thrace opposite appeared to view close at hand. And there appeared the misty mouth of Bosphorus and the Mysian hills; and on the other side the stream of the river Aesepus and the city and Nepelian plain of Adrasteia. Now there was a sturdy stump of vine that grew in the forest, a tree exceeding old; this they cut down, to be the sacred image of the mountain goddess; and Argos smoothed it skilfully, and they set it upon that rugged hill beneath a canopy of lofty oaks, which of all trees have their roots deepest. And near it they

<sup>1</sup> Rhea.

βωμὸν δ' αὖ χέραδος παρενήνεον· ἀμφὶ δὲ φύλλοις  
 στεφάμενοι δρυῖνοισι θυηπολῆς ἐμέλοντο,  
 Μητέρα Δινδυμῆν πολυπότνιαν ἀγκαλέοντες,  
 ἐνναέτιν Φρυγίης, Τιτίην θ' ἅμα Κύλληνόν τε,  
 οἳ μῦθοι πολέων μοιρηγέται ἡδὲ πάρεδροι  
 Μητέρος Ἰδαίης κεκλήαται, ὅσσοι ἔασιν  
 Δάκτυλοι Ἰδαῖοι Κρηταιέες, οὓς ποτε νύμφη  
 Ἀγχιάλῃ Δικταῖον ἀνὰ σπέος ἀμφοτέρησιν  
 δραξαμένη γαίης Οἰαξίδος ἐβλάστησεν.  
 πολλὰ δὲ τήνγε λιτῆσιν ἀποστρέψαι ἐριώλας  
 Αἰσονίδης γουνάζετ' ἐπιλλείβων ἱεροῖσιν  
 αἰθομένοισι· ἄμυδις δὲ νέοι Ὀρφῆος ἀνωγῇ  
 σκαίροντες βηταρμὸν ἐνόπλιον ὠρχήσαντο,  
 καὶ σάκεα ξιφέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, ὥς κεν ἰωὴ  
 δύσφημος πλάζοιτο δι' ἡέρος, ἣν ἔτι λαοὶ  
 κηδεῖν βασιλῆος ἀνέστενον. ἔνθεν ἔσαιε  
 ῥόμβῳ καὶ τυπάνῳ Ῥεῖην Φρύγες ἰλάσκονται  
 ἢ δέ που εὐαγέεσσιν ἐπὶ φρένα θῆκε θυηλαῖς  
 ἀνταίῃ δαίμων· τὰ δ' εἰκότα σήματ' ἔγεντο.  
 δένδρεα μὲν καρπὸν χέον ἄσπετον, ἀμφὶ δὲ ποσσὶν  
 αὐτομάτῃ φύε γαῖα τερείνης ἄνθεα ποίης.  
 θῆρες δ' εἰλυοὺς τε κατὰ ξυλόχους τε λιπόντες  
 οὐρῇσιν σαίνοντες ἐπήλυθον. ἢ δὲ καὶ ἄλλο  
 θῆκε τέρας· ἐπεὶ οὔτι παροίτερον ὕδατι νᾶεν  
 Δίνδυμον· ἀλλὰ σφιν τότε ἀνέβραχε διψάδος  
 αὐτῶς  
 ἐκ κορυφῆς ἄλληκτον. Ἰησονίην δ' ἐνέπουσιν  
 κεῖνο ποτὸν κρήνην περιναιέται ἄνδρες ὀπίσσω.  
 καὶ τότε μὲν δαῖτ' ἀμφὶ θεῆς θέσαν οὔρεσιν  
 Ἀρκτων,  
 μέλποντες Ῥεῖην πολυπότνιαν· αὐτὰρ ἐς ἥν  
 ληξάντων ἀνέμων νῆσον λίπον εἰρεσίησιν.

1130

1140

1150

# APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

Ἐνθ' ἔρις ἄνδρα ἕκαστον ἀριστήων ὀρόθυενεν,  
 ὅστις ἀπολλήξειε πανύστατος. ἀμφὶ γὰρ αἰθὴρ  
 νήνεμος ἐστόρεσεν δῖνας, κατὰ δ' εὐνασε πόντον.  
 οἱ δὲ γαλιναῖη πίσυνοι ἐλάασκον ἐπιπρὸ  
 νῆα βίη· τὴν δ' οὐ κε διέξ' ἄλως αἰσσοῦσαν  
 οὐδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἀελλόποδες κίχον ἵπποι.  
 ἔμπης δ' ἐγρομένοιο σάλου ζαχρηέσιν αὖραις,  
 αἱ νέον ἐκ ποταμῶν ὑπὸ δειέλων ἠερέθονται,  
 τειρόμενοι καὶ δὴ μετελώφεον· αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῦσγε  
 πασσυδίῃ μογέοντας ἐφέλκετο κάρτεϊ χειρῶν  
 Ἡρακλῆς, ἐτίνασσε δ' ἀρηρύτα δούρατα νηός.  
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ Μυσῶν λεληημένοι ἠπείριοιο  
 Ῥυνδακίδας προχοὰς μέγα τ' ἥριον Αἰγαίωνος  
 τυτθὸν ὑπέκ Φρυγίης παρεμέτρεον εἰσορόωντες,  
 δὴ τότε ἀνοχλίζων τετρηχότος οἴδματος ὀλκοὺς  
 μεσσόθεν ἄξεν ἐρετμόν. αὐτὰρ τρύφος ἄλλο μὲν  
 αὐτὸς

1100

ἄμφω χερσὶν ἔχων πέσε δόχμιος, ἄλλο δὲ πόντος  
 κλύζε παλιρροθίοισι φέρων. ἀνὰ δ' ἔξετο σιγῇ  
 παπταίνων· χεῖρες γὰρ ἀήθεον ἠρεμέουσαι.

1170

Ἦμος δ' ἀγρόθεν εἰσι φυτοσκάφος ἢ τις ἀροτρεὺς  
 ἀσπασίως εἰς αὐλιν εἴν, δόρποιο χατίζων,  
 αὐτοῦ δ' ἐν προμολῇ τετρυμένα γούνατ' ἔκαμψεν  
 αὐσταλέος κονίησι, περιτριβέας δέ τε χεῖρας  
 εἰσορόων κακὰ πολλὰ ἐῖ ἠρήσατο γαστρί·  
 τῆμος ἄρ' οὔγ' ἀφίκοντο Κιανίδος ἠθεα γαίης  
 ἀμφ' Ἀργανθώνειον ὄρος προχοὰς τε Κίοιο.  
 τοὺς μὲν ἐνξείνως Μυσοὶ φιλότῃτι κιόντας  
 δειδέχατ', ἐνναέται κείνης χθονός, ἥμ' αὖτε σφιν  
 μῆλ' αὖτε δευομένοις μέθυ τ' ἄσπετον ἐγγυάλιξαν.  
 ἔνθα δ' ἔπειθ' οἱ μὲν ξύλα κώγκανα, τοὶ δὲ  
 λεχαίην

1180



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Thereupon a spirit of contention stirred each chieftain, who should be the last to leave his oar. For all around the windless air smoothed the swirling waves and lulled the sea to rest. And they, trusting in the calm, mightily drove the ship forward; and as she sped through the salt sea, not even the storm-footed steeds of Poseidon would have overtaken her. Nevertheless when the sea was stirred by violent blasts which were just rising from the rivers about evening, forspent with toil, they ceased. But Heracles by the might of his arms pulled the weary rowers along all together, and made the strong-knit timbers of the ship to quiver. But when, eager to reach the Mysian mainland, they passed along in sight of the mouth of Rhyndacus and the great cairn of Aegaeon, a little way from Phrygia, then Heracles, as he ploughed up the furrows of the roughened surge, broke his oar in the middle. And one half he held in both his hands as he fell sideways, the other the sea swept away with its receding wave. And he sat up in silence glaring round; for his hands were unaccustomed to lie idle.

Now at the hour when from the field some delver or ploughman goes gladly home to his hut, longing for his evening meal, and there on the threshold, all squalid with dust, bows his wearied knees, and, beholding his hands worn with toil, with many a curse reviles his belly; at that hour the heroes reached the homes of the Cician land near the Arganthonian mount and the outfall of Cius. Then as they came in friendliness, the Mysians, inhabitants of that land, hospitably welcomed, and gave them in their need provisions and sheep and abundant wine. Hereupon some brought dried wood, others from the

φυλλάδα λειμώνων φέρον ἄσπετον ἀμήσαντες,  
στόρνυσθαι· τοὶ δ' ἀμφὶ πυρῆα δινεύεσκον·  
οἱ δ' οἶνον κρητῆρσι κέρων, πονέοντό τε δαῖτα,  
Ἐκβασίῳ ῥέξαντες ὑπὸ κνέφας Ἀπόλλωνι.

Αὐτὰρ ὁ δαῖτ' αἶνυσθαι ἐταίροις<sup>1</sup> εὖ ἐπιτείλας  
βῆ ῥ' Ἴμεν εἰς ὕλην υἱὸς Διός, ὥς κεν ἐρετμὸν  
οἱ αὐτῷ φθαίῃ καταχείριον ἐντύνασθαι.

εὐρεν ἔπειτ' ἐλάτην ἀλαλήμενος, οὔτε τι πολλοῖς 1190

ἄχθομένην ὄζοις, οὐδὲ μέγα τηλεθόωσαν,

ἀλλ' οἶον ταναΐης ἔρνος πέλει αἰγείροιο·

τόσση ὁμῶς μήκος τε καὶ ἐς πάχος ἦεν ἰδέσθαι.

ῥίμφα δ' οἰστοδόκην μὲν ἐπὶ χθονὶ θῆκε φαρέτρην  
αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισιν, ἔδν δ' ἀπὸ δέρμα λέοντος.

τὴν δ' ὕγε χαλκοβαρεῖ ῥοπάλῳ δαπέδοιο τινάξας

νειόθεν ἀμφοτέρῃσι περὶ στύπος ἔλλαβε χερσίν,

ἠγορέῃ πίσυνος· ἐν δὲ πλατὺν ὤμον ἔρεισεν

εὖ διαβάς· πεδόθεν δὲ βαθύρριζόν περ ἐοῦσαν

προσφὺς ἐξήειρε σὺν αὐτοῖς ἔχμασι γαίης. 1200

ὥς δ' ὅταν ἀπροφάτως ἰστὸν νεός, εὐτε μάλιστα

χειμερὶν ὀλοοῖο δύσις πέλει Ὀρίωνος,

ὑψόθεν ἐμπλήξασα θοῇ ἀνέμοιο κατάιξ

αὐτοῖσι σφήνεσσιν ὑπέκ προτόνων ἐρύσσηται·

ὥς ὕγε τὴν ἦειρεν. ὁμοῦ δ' ἀνὰ τόξα καὶ ἰοὺς

δέρμα θ' ἐλὼν ῥόπαλόν τε παλίσσυτος ὦρτο  
νέεσθαι.

Τόφρα δ' Ἔλας χαλκῇ σὺν κάλπιδι νόσφιν  
ὁμίλου

δίξητο κρήνης ἱερὸν ῥόον, ὥς κέ οἱ ὕδωρ

φθαίῃ ἀφυσσάμενος ποτιδόρπιον, ἄλλα τε πάντα

ὀτραλέως κατὰ κόσμον ἐπαρτίσσειεν ἰόντι. 1210

<sup>1</sup> δαῖτ' αἶνυσθαι ἐταίροις O. Schneider; δαίνυσθαι ἐτάροις L;  
δαίνυσθαι ἐτάροις G; δαίνυσθαι ἐτάροις of one Parisian.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

meadows leaves for beds which they gathered in abundance for strewing, whilst others were twirling sticks to get fire; others again were mixing wine in the bowl and making ready the feast, after sacrificing at nightfall to Apollo Æbasius.

But the son of Zeus having duly enjoined on his comrades to prepare the feast took his way into a wood, that he might first fashion for himself an oar to fit his hand. Wandering about he found a pine not burdened with many branches, nor too full of leaves, but like to the shaft of a tall poplar; so great was it both in length and thickness to look at. And quickly he laid on the ground his arrow-holding quiver together with his bow, and took off his lion's skin. And he loosened the pine from the ground with his bronze-tipped club and grasped the trunk with both hands at the bottom, relying on his strength; and he pressed it against his broad shoulder with legs wide apart; and clinging close he raised it from the ground deep-rooted though it was, together with clods of earth. And as when unexpectedly, just at the time of the stormy setting of baleful Orion, a swift gust of wind strikes down from above, and wrenches a ship's mast from its stays, wedges and all; so did Heracles lift the pine. And at the same time he took up his bow and arrows, his lion skin and club, and started on his return.

Meantime Hylas with pitcher of bronze in hand had gone apart from the throng, seeking the sacred flow of a fountain, that he might be quick in drawing water for the evening meal and actively make all things ready in due order against his lord's

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

return. For in such ways did Heracles nurture him from his first childhood when he had carried him off from the house of his father, goodly Theiodamas, whom the hero pitilessly slew among the Dryopians because he withstood him about an ox for the plough. Theiodamas was cleaving with his plough the soil of fallow land when he was smitten with the curse; and Heracles bade him give up the ploughing ox against his will. For he desired to find some pretext for war against the Dryopians for their bane, since they dwelt there reckless of right. But these tales would lead me far astray from my song. And quickly Hylas came to the spring which the people who dwell thereabouts call Pegae. And the dances of the nymphs were just now being held there; for it was the care of all the nymphs that haunted that lovely headland ever to hymn Artemis in songs by night. All who held the mountain peaks or glens, all they were ranged far off guarding the woods; but one, a water-nymph was just rising from the fair-flowing spring; and the boy she perceived close at hand with the rosy flush of his beauty and sweet grace. For the full moon beaming from the sky smote him. And Cypris made her heart faint, and in her confusion she could scarcely gather her spirit back to her. But as soon as he dipped the pitcher in the stream, leaning to one side, and the brimming water rang loud as it poured against the sounding bronze, straightway she laid her left arm above upon his neck yearning to kiss his tender mouth; and with her right hand she drew down his elbow, and plunged him into the midst of the eddy.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Alone of his comrades the hero Polyphemus, son of Eilatus, as he went forward on the path, heard the boy's cry, for he expected the return of mighty Heracles. And he rushed after the cry, near Pegae, like some beast of the wild wood whom the bleating of sheep has reached from afar, and burning with hunger he follows, but does not fall in with the flocks; for the shepherds beforehand have penned them in the fold, but he groans and roars vehemently until he is weary. Thus vehemently at that time did the son of Eilatus groan and wandered shouting round the spot; and his voice rang piteous. Then quickly drawing his great sword he started in pursuit, in fear lest the boy should be the prey of wild beasts, or men should have lain in ambush for him faring all alone, and be carrying him off, an easy prey. Hereupon as he brandished his bare sword in his hand he met Heracles himself on the path, and well he knew him as he hastened to the ship through the darkness. And straightway he told the wretched calamity while his heart laboured with his panting breath.

"My poor friend, I shall be the first to bring thee tidings of bitter woe. Hylas has gone to the well and has not returned safe, but robbers have attacked and are carrying him off, or beasts are tearing him to pieces; I heard his cry."

Thus he spake; and when Heracles heard his words, sweat in abundance poured down from his temples and the black blood boiled beneath his heart. And in wrath he hurled the pine to the ground and hurried along the path whither his feet bore on his impetuous soul. And as when a bull stung by a gadfly tears along, leaving the meadows

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

οὐδ' ἀγέλης ὄθεται, πρήσσει δ' ὁδόν, ἄλλοτ'  
ἄπαυστος,  
ἄλλοτε δ' ἰστάμενος, καὶ ἀνὰ πλατὺν αὐχέν'  
αἰείρων

ἴησιν μύκημα, κακῷ βεβολημένος οἴστρω·  
ὥς ὄγε μαιμώνων ὅτε μὲν θοὰ γούνατ' ἔπαλλεν  
συνεχέως, ὅτε δ' αὐτε μεταλλήγων καμάτοιο  
τῆλε διαπρύσιον μεγάλῃ βοάσκειν αὐτῇ.

1270

Αὐτίκα δ' ἀκροτάτας ὑπερέσχεθεν ἄκριας ἀστήρ  
ἠῶς, πνοιαὶ δὲ κατήλυθον· ὦκα δὲ Τῖφους  
ἐσβαίνειν ὁρόθυνεν, ἐπαύρεσθαί τ' ἀνέμοιο.  
οἱ δ' εἰσβαῖνον ἄφαρ λελημένοι· ὕψι δὲ νηὸς  
εὐναίης ἐρύσαντες ἀνεκρούσαντο κάλῳας.

κυρτώθη δ' ἀνέμῳ λῖνα μεσσύθι, τῆλε δ' ἀπ' ἀκτῆς  
γηθόσυνοι φορέοντο παραὶ Ποσιδῆιον ἄκρην.  
ἦμος δ' οὐρανόθεν χαροπὴ ὑπολάμπεται ἠὼς  
ἐκ περάτης ἀνιούσα, διαγλαύσσουσι δ' ἀταρποί,  
καὶ πεδία δροσόεντα φαεινῇ λάμπεται αἴγλῃ,  
τῆμος τοῦσγ' ἐνόησαν αἰδρεῖνσι λεπόντες.

1280

ἐν δὲ σφιν κρατερὸν νεῖκος πέσεν, ἐν δὲ κολῳὸς  
ἄσπετος, εἰ τὸν ἄριστον ἀποσπρωλιπόντες ἔβησαν  
σφωιτέρων ἐτάρων. ὁ δ' ἀμηχανήσιν ἀτυχθεὶς  
οὔτε τι τοῖον ἔπος μετεφώνεεν, οὔτε τι τοῖον  
Λίσονίδης· ἀλλ' ἦστο βαρεῖν νειόθεν ἄτη  
θυμὸν ἔδων· Τελαμῶνα δ' ἔλεν χόλος, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·

·Ψ· αὐτως εὐκῆλος, ἐπεὶ νῦν τοι ἄρμενον ἦεν  
Ἑρακλῆα λιπεῖν· σέο δ' ἔκτοθι μῆτις δρῶρεν,  
ὄφρα τὸ κείνου κῦδος ἀν' Ἑλλάδα μὴ σε καλύψῃ,  
αἱ κε θεοὶ δώωσιν ὑπότροπον οἴκαδε νόστον.  
ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἐπεὶ καὶ νόσφιν ἐταίρων  
εἰμι τεῶν, οἱ τόνγε δόλον συνετεκτίναντο.

1290

·Η· καὶ ἐς Ἀγνιάδην Τῖφυν θόρε· τῷ δὲ οἱ ὄσσε

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

and the marsh land, and reck not of herdsmen or herd, but presses on, now without check, now standing still, and raising his broad neck he bellows, loudly stung by the maddening fly; so he in his frenzy now would ply his swift knees unresting, now again would cease from toil and shout afar with loud pealing cry.

But straightway the morning star rose above the topmost peaks and the breeze swept down; and quickly did Tiphys urge them to go aboard and avail themselves of the wind. And they embarked eagerly forthwith; and they drew up the ship's anchors and hauled the ropes astern. And the sails were bellied out by the wind, and far from the coast were they joyfully borne past the Posideian headland. But at the hour when gladsome dawn shines from heaven, rising from the east, and the paths stand out clearly, and the dewy plains shine with a bright gleam, then at length they were aware that unwittingly they had abandoned those twain. And a fierce quarrel fell upon them, and violent tumult, for that they had sailed and left behind the bravest of their comrades. And Aeson's son, bewildered by their hapless plight, said never a word, good or bad; but sat with his heavy load of grief, eating out his heart. And wrath seized Telamon, and thus he spake:

"Sit there at thy ease, for it was fitting for thee to leave Heracles behind; from thee the project arose, so that his glory throughout Hellas should not overshadow thee, if so be that heaven grants us a return home. But what pleasure is there in words? For I will go, I only, with none of thy comrades, who have helped thee to plan this treachery."

He spake, and rushed upon Tiphys son of Hagnias;

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and his eyes sparkled like flashes of ravening flame. And they would quickly have turned back to the land of the Mysians, forcing their way through the deep sea and the unceasing blasts of the wind, had not the two sons of Thracian Boreas held back the son of Aeacus with harsh words. Hapless ones, assuredly a bitter vengeance came upon them thereafter at the hands of Heracles, because they stayed the search for him. For when they were returning from the games over Pelias dead he slew them in sea-girt Tenos and heaped the earth round them, and placed two columns above, one of which, a great marvel for men to see, moves at the breath of the blustering north wind. These things were thus to be accomplished in after times. But to them appeared Glaucus from the depths of the sea, the wise interpreter of divine Nereus, and raising aloft his shaggy head and chest from his waist below, with sturdy hand he seized the ship's keel, and then cried to the eager crew :

"Why against the counsel of mighty Zeus do ye purpose to lead bold Heracles to the city of Aeetes? At Argos it is his fate to labour for insolent Eurystheus and to accomplish full twelve toils and dwell with the immortals, if so be that he bring to fulfilment a few more yet; wherefore let there be no vain regret for him. Likewise it is destined for Polyphemus to found a glorious city at the mouth of Cius among the Mysians and to fill up the measure of his fate in the vast land of the Chalybes. But a goddess-nymph through love has made Hylas her husband, on whose account those two wandered and were left behind."

He spake, and with a plunge wrapped him about



ἀμφὶ δέ οἱ δίνῃσι κυκώμενον ἄφρεεν ὕδωρ  
 πορφύρεον, κοίλῃν δὲ διέξ' ἄλδος ἔκλυσε νῆα.  
 γήθησαν δ' ἥρωες· ὁ δ' ἐσσυμένως ἐβεβήκει  
 Λιακίδης Τελαμῶν ἐς Ἰήσονα, χεῖρα δὲ χειρὶ 1330  
 ἄκρην ἀμφιβαλὼν προσπτύξατο, φώνησέν τε·

‘ Αἰσονίδη, μή μοί τι χολώσεται, ἀφραδίῃσιν  
 εἴ τί περ ἀασάμην· περὶ γάρ μ' ἄχος εἶλεν ἐνισπεῖν  
 μῦθον ὑπερφιάλόν τε καὶ ἄσχετον. ἀλλ' ἀνέμοισιν  
 δώομεν ἀμπλακίην, ὥς καὶ πάρος εὐμενέοντες.’

Τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἰσωνος υἱὸς ἐπιφραδέως προσέειπεν·  
 ‘ ὦ πέπον, ἡ μάλα δὴ με κακῷ ἐκνδάσσαις μύθῳ,  
 φὰς ἐνὶ τοῖσιν ἅπασιν ἐνῆός ἀνδρὸς ἀλείτῃν  
 ἔμμεναι. ἀλλ' οὐ θῆν' τοι ἀδευκέα μῆνιν ἀέξω,  
 πρὶν περ ἀνιηθεῖς· ἐπεὶ οὐ περὶ πώεσι μῆλων, 1340  
 οὐδὲ περὶ κτεάτεσσι χαλεψάμενος μενέηνας,  
 ἀλλ' ἐτάρου περὶ φωτός. ἔολπα δέ τοι σὲ καὶ  
 ἄλλῳ

ἀμφ' ἐμεῦ, εἰ τοιόνδε πέλοι ποτέ, δηρίσασθαι.’

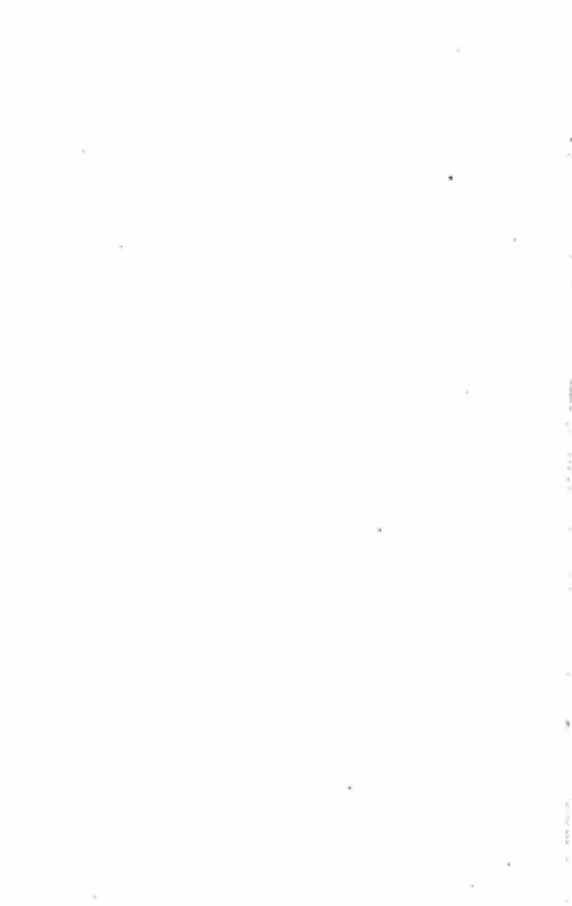
Ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἀρθμῆθέντες, ὅπῃ πάρος, ἐδριόωντο.  
 τῷ δὲ Διὸς βουλῇσιν, ὁ μὲν Μυσοῖσι βαλέσθαι  
 μέλλεν ἐπώνυμον ἄστῃ πολισσάμενος ποταμοῖο  
 Εἰλατίδης Πολύφημος· ὁ δ' Εὐρυσθέης ἀέθλους  
 αὐτὶς ἰὼν πονέεσθαι. ἐπηπείλησε δὲ γαῖαν  
 Μυσιδ' ἀναστήσειν αὐτοσχεδόν, ὅππότε μή οἱ  
 ἡ ζωὴ εὐροίεν· Ἔλα μόνον, ἥθ' ἐθανόντος. 1350  
 τοιοῦτο δὲ ῥύσι' ὅπασσαν ἀποκρίναντες ἀρίστους  
 νείας ἐκ δῆμοιο, καὶ ὅρκια ποιήσαντο,  
 μήποτε μαστεύοντες ἀπολλήξειν καμάτοιο.  
 τούνεκεν εἰσέτι νῦν περ Ἔλαν ἐρέουσι Κιανοί,

κούρον Θειοδάμαντος, ἐκτιμένης τε μέλονται  
Τρηχίως. δὴ γάρ ῥα κατ' αὐτόθι νάσσατο παῖδας,  
οὓς οἱ ῥύσια κείθεν ἐπιπροέηκαν ἄγεσθαι.

Νηῦν δὲ πανημερίην ἄνεμος φέρε νυκτί τε πάσῃ  
λάβρος ἐπιπνεύων· ἀτὰρ οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἤτο  
ῆούς τελλομένης, οἱ δὲ χθονὸς εἰσανέχουσιν  
ἄκτῃν ἐκ κόλποιο μάλ' εὐρεῖαν ἐσιδέσθαι  
φρασσάμενοι, κώπησιν ἅμ' ἡελίῳ ἐπέκελσαν.

1300

## BOOK II



## SUMMARY OF BOOK II

FIGHT between Polydeuces and Amycus, King of the Bebrycians; defeat and death of Amycus (1-97).—Victory of the Argonauts over the Bebrycians; arrival at the abode of Phineus (98-177).—History of Phineus and the Harpies, who are chased by Zetes and Calais, sons of Boreas (178-300).—Prediction of Phineus and return of the sons of Boreas (301-447).—Episode of Paraebius (448-499).—Origin of the Etesian winds (500-527).—Argo passes between the Symplegades by the aid of Athena (528-647).—Arrival at the isle Thynias: apparition of Apollo, to whom they pay honour (648-719).—Arrival among the Mariandyni, where King Lycus welcomes them (720-814).—Deaths of Idmon and Tiphys: Ancaeus chosen pilot (815-910).—The Argonauts pass Sinope and the Cape of the Amazons, and reach the Chalybes (911-1008).—Customs of the Tibareni and Mossynoeci (1009-1029).—Contest with the birds of the isle Aretias, where they meet with the sons of Phrixus, shipwrecked on their way to Hellas (1030-1225).—Arrival in Colchis (1226-1285).

## B

Ἐνθα δ' ἔσαν σταθμοὶ τε βοῶν αὐλὶς τ' Ἀμύκοιο,  
 Βεβρύκων βασιλῆος ἀγῆνορος, ὃν ποτε νύμφη  
 τίκτε Ποσειδάωνι Γενεθλίῳ εὐνηθεῖσα  
 Βιθυνὶς Μελὶν, ὑπεροπληέστατον ἀνδρῶν  
 ὅστ' ἐπὶ καὶ ξείνοισιν ἀεικέα θεσμόν ἔθηκεν,  
 μήτιν' ἀποστείχειν, πρὶν πειρήσασθαι ἐοῖο  
 πυγμαχίης· πολέας δὲ περικτιόνων ἐδάμξεν.  
 καὶ δὲ τότε προτὶ νῆα κιών, χρειῶ μιν ἐρέσθαι  
 ναυτιλίας, οἳ τ' εἶεν, ὑπερβασίησιν ἄτισσεν,  
 τοῖον δ' ἐν πάντεσσι παρασχεδὸν ἔκφατο μῦθον· 10

Κέκλυθ', ἀλίπλαγκτοι, τάπερ ἰδμεναι ὕμμιν  
 ἔοικεν.

οὐτίνα θέσμιόν ἐστιν ἀφορμηθέντα νέεσθαι  
 ἀνδρῶν ὀθνείων, ὅς κεν Βέβρυξι πελάσση,  
 πρὶν χεῖρεσσιν ἐμῇσιν εἰς ἀνὰ χεῖρας ἀεῖραι.  
 τῷ καὶ μοι τὸν ἀριστὸν ἀποκριδὸν οἶον ὁμίλου  
 πυγμαχίῃ στήσασθε καταντόθι δηρινθῆναι.  
 εἰ δ' ἂν ἀπηλεγέοντες ἐμὰς πατέοιτε θέμιστας,  
 ἢ κέν τις στυγερώς κρατερὴ ἐπιέψεται ἀνάγκη·

Ἥ ῥα μέγα φρονέων τοὺς δ' ἄγριος εἰσαίοντας  
 εἶλε χόλος· περὶ δ' αὖ Πολυδεύκεα τύψεν  
 ὀμοκλή. 20

αἶψα δ' ἐὼν ἐτάρων πρόμος ἴστατο, φώνησέν τε·  
 Ἴσχεο νῦν, μηδ' ἄμμι κακὴν, ὅτις εὐχεται εἶναι,  
 φαῖνε βίην· θεσμοῖς γὰρ ὑπείξομεν, ὥς ἀγορεύεις.  
 αὐτὸς ἐκὼν ἤδη τοι ὑπὶ σχομαι ἀντιτάσθαι.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

Thus he spake outright; but the other with rolling eyes glared on him, like to a lion struck by a javelin when hunters in the mountains are hemming him round, and, though pressed by the throng, he recked no more of them, but keeps his eyes fixed, singling out that man only who struck him first and slew him not. Hereupon the son of Tyndareus laid aside his mantle, closely-woven, delicately-wrought, which one of the Lemnian maidens had given him as a pledge of hospitality; and the king threw down his dark cloak of double fold with its clasps and the knotted crook of mountain olive which he carried. Then straightway they looked and chose close by a spot that pleased them and bade their comrades sit upon the sand in two lines; nor were they alike to behold in form or in stature. The one seemed to be a monstrous son of baleful Typhoeus or of Earth herself, such as she brought forth aforetime, in her wrath against Zeus; but the other, the son of Tyndareus, was like a star of heaven, whose beams are fairest as it shines through the nightly sky at eventide. Such was the son of Zeus, the bloom of the first down still on his cheeks, still with the look of gladness in his eyes. But his might and fury waxed like a wild beast's; and he poised his hands to see if they were pliant as before and were not altogether numbed by toil and rowing. But Amyceus on his side made no trial; but standing apart in silence he kept his eyes upon his foe, and his spirit surged within him all eager to dash the life-blood from his breast. And between them Lycoreus, the henchman of Amyceus, placed at their feet on each side two pairs of gauntlets made of raw hide, dry, exceeding

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

but only grazing the skin the bronze sped under his belt and touched not the flesh. Likewise Aretus with well-seasoned club smote Iphitus, the steadfast son of Eurytus, not yet destined to an evil death; assuredly soon was he himself to be slain by the sword of Clytus. Then Ancacus, the dauntless son of Lycurgus, quickly seized his huge axe, and in his left hand holding a bear's dark hide, plunged into the midst of the Bebrycians with furious onset; and with him charged the sons of Aeacus, and with them started warlike Jason. And as when amid the folds grey wolves rush down on a winter's day and scare countless sheep, unmarked by the keen-scented dogs and the shepherds too, and they seek what first to attack and carry off, often glaring around, but the sheep are just huddled together and trample on one another; so the heroes grievously scared the arrogant Bebrycians. And as shepherds or bee-keepers smoke out a huge swarm of bees in a rock, and they meanwhile, pent up in their hive, murmur with droning hum, till, stupefied by the murky smoke, they fly forth far from the rock; so they stayed steadfast no longer, but scattered themselves inland through Bebrycia, proclaiming the death of Amycus; fools, not to perceive that another woe all unforeseen was hard upon them. For at that hour their vineyards and villages were being ravaged by the hostile spear of Lycus and the Mariandyni, now that their king was gone. For they were ever at strife about the ironbearing land. And now the foe was destroying their steadings and farms,



φεύξεσθαι κακὸν οἶτον, ἐπεὶ μάλα μεσσόθι νηὸς  
λάβρον ἐπικρέμαται, καθάπερ νέφος. ἀλλὰ τόγ'  
ἔμπης

στόρνυται, εἴ κ' ἐσθλοῖο κυβερνητῆρος ἐπαύρη.  
τῷ καὶ Τίφυος οἶδε δαημοσύνησι νέοντο,  
ἀσκηθεῖς μὲν, ἀτὰρ πεφοβημένοι. ἡματι δ' ἄλλῃ  
ἀντιπέρην γαίῃ Βιθυνίδι πείσματ' ἀνῆψαν.

Ἔνθα δ' ἐπάκτιον οἶκον Ἀγηνορίδης ἔχε Φινεύς,  
ὃς περὶ δὴ πάντων ὀλωώτατα πῆματ' ἀνετλη  
εἵνεκα μαντοσύνης, τὴν οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν  
Λητοῖδης· οὐδ' ὅσσον ὀπίζετο καὶ Διὸς αὐτοῦ  
χρεῖων ἀτρεκέως ἱερὸν νόον ἀνθρώποισιν.  
τῷ καὶ οἱ γῆρας μὲν ἐπὶ δηναιὸν ἱαλλεν,  
ἐκ δ' ἔλετ' ὀφθαλμῶν γλυκερὸν φάος· οὐδὲ γάνυ-  
σθαι

εἶα ἀπειρεσίοισιν ὀνείασιν, ὅσσα οἱ αἰεὶ  
θέσφατα πευθόμενοι περὶ ναιέται οἴκαδ' ἄγειρον.  
ἀλλὰ διὰ νεφέων ἄφνω πέλας αἴσσουσαι

Ἄρπυιαι στόματος χειρῶν τ' ἀπὸ γαμφηλῆσιν  
συνεχέως ἥρπαζον. ἐλείπετο δ' ἄλλοτε φορβῆς  
οὐδ' ὅσον, ἄλλοτε τυτθόν, ἵνα ζῶων ἀκάχοιτο.  
καὶ δ' ἐπὶ μυδαλέην ὁδὸν χέον· οὐδέ τις ἔτλη  
μὴ καὶ λευκανίηνδε φορεύμενος, ἀλλ' ἀποτηλοῦ  
ἐστήώς· τοῖόν οἱ ἀπέπνεε λείψανα δαιτός.

αὐτίκα δ' εἰσαΐων ἐνοπὴν καὶ δοῦπον ὀμίλου  
τούσδ' αὐτοὺς παριόντας ἐπήισεν, ὧν οἱ ἰόντων  
θέσφατον ἐκ Διὸς ἦεν ἐὴς ἀπόνασθαι ἐδωδῆς.  
ὀρθωθείς δ' εὐνήθεν, ἀκήριον ἡνὺτ' ὄνειρον,  
βάκτρῃ σκηπτόμενος ῥικνοῖς ποσὶν ἦε θύραζε,  
τοίχους ἀμφαφύων· τρέμε δ' ἄψα νισσομένοιο  
ἀδρανέῃ γῆραι τε· πίνῃ δέ οἱ αὖσταλός χρῶς

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

death, for in its fury it hangs over the middle of the ship, like a cloud, yet it sinks away into calm if it meets with a skilful helmsman. So they by the steering-craft of Tiphys escaped, unhurt but sore dismayed. And on the next day they fastened the hawsers to the coast opposite the Bithynian land.

There Phineus, son of Agenor, had his home by the sea, Phineus who above all men endured most bitter woes because of the gift of prophecy which Leto's son had granted him aforetime. And he revered not a whit even Zeus himself, for he foretold unerringly to men his sacred will. Wherefore Zeus sent upon him a lingering old age, and took from his eyes the pleasant light, and suffered him not to have joy of the dainties untold that the dwellers around ever brought to his house, when they came to enquire the will of heaven. But on a sudden, swooping through the clouds, the Harpies with their crooked beaks incessantly snatched the food away from his mouth and hands. And at times not a morsel of food was left, at others but a little, in order that he might live and be tormented. And they poured forth over all a loathsome stench; and no one dared not merely to carry food to his mouth but even to stand at a distance; so foully reeked the remnants of the meal. But straightway when he heard the voice and the tramp of the band he knew that they were the men passing by, at whose coming Zeus' oracle had declared to him that he should have joy of his food. And he rose from his couch, like a lifeless dream, bowed over his staff, and crept to the door on his withered feet, feeling the walls; and as he moved, his limbs trembled for weakness and age; and his parched skin was caked with dirt,

ἐσκληήκει, ῥίνοι δὲ σὺν ὀστέα μῦνον ἔεργον.  
 ἐκ δ' ἐλθὼν μεγάροιο καθέζετο γούνα βαρυνθεὶς  
 οὔδοῦ ἐπ' αὐλείοιο· κάρος δέ μιν ἀμφεκάλυνφεν  
 πορφύρεος, γαῖαν δὲ πέριξ ἐδόκησε φέρεσθαι  
 νειόθεν, ἀβληχρῶ δ' ἐπὶ κώματι κέκλιτ' ἀναυδος.  
 οἱ δέ μιν ὡς εἶδοντο, περισταδὸν ἡγερέθοντο  
 καὶ τάφον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖσι μάλα μόλις ἐξ ὑπάτοιο  
 στήθεος ἀμπνεύσας μετεφώνεε μαντοσύνησιν·

Ἰκλῦτε, Πανελλήνων προφερέστατοι, εἰ ἐτεδὺν δὴ  
 οἶδ' ὑμεῖς, οὓς δὴ κρινερῇ βασιλῆος ἐφετμή 210  
 Ἄργωφης ἐπὶ νηὸς ἄγει μετὰ κῶας Ἰήσων.  
 ὑμεῖς ἀτρεκέως. ἔτι μοι νόος οἶδεν ἕκαστα  
 ἦσι θεοπροπίησι. χάριν νύ τοι, ὦ ἄνα, Λητοῦς  
 υἱέ, καὶ ἀργαλέοισιν ἀνάπτομαι ἐν καμάτοισιν.  
 Ἰκεσίου πρὸς Ζηνός, ὅτις ῥίγιστος αἰλτροῖς  
 ἀνδράσι, Φοῖβον τ' ἀμφὶ καὶ αὐτῆς εἵνεκεν Ἥρης  
 λίσσομαι, ἥ περιάλλα θεῶν μέμβλεσθε κιόντες,  
 χραίσμετέ μοι, ῥύσασθε δυσάμμορον ἀνέρα λύμης,  
 μηδὲ μ' ἀκηδείησιν ἀφορμήθητε λιπόντες  
 αὐτως. οὐ γὰρ μῦνον ἐπ' ὀφθαλμοῖσιν Ἑρινὺς 220  
 λαῖξ' ἐπέβη, καὶ γῆρας ἀμήρυτον ἐς τέλος ἔλκω·  
 πρὸς δ' ἔτι πικρότατον κρέμαται κακὸν ἄλλο  
 κακοῖσιν.

Ἄρπυιαι στόματός μοι ἀφαρπάξουσιν ἐδωδὴν  
 ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο καταίσσουσαι ὀλέθρου.  
 ἰσχω δ' οὔτινα μῆτιν ἐπίρροθον. ἀλλὰ κε ρεῖα  
 αὐτὸς ἐὼν λελάθοιμι νόον δόρποιο μεμηλώς,  
 ἢ κείνας· ὥδ' αἶψα διηέριαι ποτέονται.  
 τυτθὸν δ' ἦν ἄρα δῖηποτ' ἐδητύος ἄμμι λίπωσιν,  
 πνεῖ τόδε μυδαλέον τε καὶ οὐ τλητὸν μένος ὀδμῆς·  
 οὐ κέ τις οὐδὲ μίνυνθα βροτῶν ἀνσχοίτο πελάσσας, 230  
 οὐδ' εἰ οἱ ἀδάμαντος ἐληλάμενον κέαρ εἴη.

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and naught but the skin held his bones together. And he came forth from the hall with wearied knees and sat on the threshold of the courtyard; and a dark stupor covered him, and it seemed that the earth reeled round beneath his feet, and he lay in a strengthless trance, speechless. But when they saw him they gathered round and marvelled. And he at last drew laboured breath from the depths of his chest and spoke among them with prophetic utterance:

"Listen, bravest of all the Hellenes, if it be truly ye, whom by a king's ruthless command Jason is leading on the ship *Argo* in quest of the fleece. It is ye truly. Even yet my soul by its divination knows everything. Thanks I render to thee, O king, son of *Leto*, plunged in bitter affliction though I be. I beseech you by *Zeus* the god of suppliants, the sternest foe to sinful men, and for the sake of *Phoebus* and *Hera* herself, under whose especial care ye have come hither, help me, save an ill-fated man from misery, and depart not uncaring and leaving me thus as ye see. For not only has the *Fury* set her foot on my eyes and I drag on to the end a weary old age; but besides my other woes a woe hangs over me—the bitterest of all. The *Harpies*, swooping down from some unseen den of destruction, ever snatch the food from my mouth. And I have no device to aid me. But it were easier, when I long for a meal, to escape my own thoughts than them, so swiftly do they fly through the air. But if haply they *do* leave me a morsel of food it reeks of decay and the stench is unendurable, nor could any mortal bear to draw near even for a moment, no, not if his heart were wrought of adamant. But necessity,

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possesses me and this dark cloud upon my eyes, and the gods of the underworld—and may their curse be upon me if I die perjured thus—no wrath from heaven will fall upon you two for your help to me.”

Then were those two eager to help him because of the oath. And quickly the younger heroes prepared a feast for the aged man, a last prey for the Harpies; and both stood near him, to smite with the sword those pests when they swooped down. Scarcely had the aged man touched the food when they forthwith, like bitter blasts or flashes of lightning, suddenly darted from the clouds, and swooped down with a yell, fiercely craving for food; and the heroes beheld them and shouted in the midst of their onrush; but they at the cry devoured everything and sped away over the sea afar; and an intolerable stench remained. And behind them the two sons of Boreas raising their swords rushed in pursuit. For Zeus imparted to them tireless strength; but without Zeus they could not have followed, for the Harpies used ever to outstrip the blasts of the west wind when they came to Phineus and when they left him. And as when, upon the mountain-side, hounds, cunning in the chase, run in the track of horned goats or deer, and as they strain a little behind gnash their teeth upon the edge of their jaws in vain; so Zetes and Calais rushing very near just grazed the Harpies in vain with their finger-tips. And assuredly they would have torn them to pieces, despite heaven's will, when they had overtaken them far off at the Floating Islands, had not swift Iris seen them and leapt down from the sky from heaven above, and checked them with these words:

‘Οὐ θέμις, ὦ υἱεῖς Βορέω, ξιφέεσσιν ἐλάσσαι  
 Ἄρπυϊας, μεγάλοιο Διὸς κύνας· ὄρκια δ’ αὐτῇ  
 δώσω ἐγών, ὥς οὐ οἱ ἔτι χρίμψουσιν ἰοῦσαι.’

290

Ὡς φαμένη λαιβὴν Στυγὸς ὤμοσεν, ἦτε θεοῖσιν  
 ῥυγίστη πάντεσσιν ὀπιδνοτάτῃ τε τέτυκται,  
 μὴ μὲν Ἀγηνορίδαο δόμοις ἔτι τάσδε πελάσσαι  
 εἰσαῦτις Φινῆος, ἐπεὶ καὶ μόρσιμον ἦεν.

οἱ δ’ ὄκρῳ εἴξαντες ὑπέστρεφον ἄψ’ ἐπὶ νῆα  
 σώεσθαι. Στροφάδας δὲ μετακλείουσ’ ἄνθρωποι  
 νήσους τοιό γ’ ἔκῃτι, πάρος Πλωτὰς καλέοντες.

Ἄρπυιαι τ’ Ἰρὶς τε διέτμαγεν. αἱ μὲν ἔδυσαν  
 κευθμῶνα Κρήτης Μινωίδος· ἡ δ’ ἀνόρουσεν  
 Οὐλυμπόνδε, θοῇσι μεταχρονίῃ πτερύγεσσιν.

300

Τόφρα δ’ ἀριστῆες πινόμεν περὶ δέρμα γέροντος  
 πάντῃ φοιβήσαντες ἐπικριδὸν ἱρεύσαντο  
 μῆλα, τὰτ’ ἐξ Ἀμύκοιο λεηλασίης ἐκόμισσαν.  
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ μέγα δόρπον ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔθεντο  
 δαίνυνθ’ ἐζόμενοι· σὺν δέ σφισι δαίνυντο Φινεὺς  
 ἄρπαλέως, οἷόν τ’ ἐν ὀνείρασι θυμὸν λαίμων.  
 ἔνθα δ’ ἐπεὶ δόρποιο κορέσσαντ’ ἡδὲ ποτῆτος,  
 παννύχιοι Βορέω μένον υἱέας ἐγρήσσοντες.  
 αὐτὸς δ’ ἐν μέσσοισι παρ’ ἐσχάρῃ ἦστο γεραιὸς  
 πείρατα ναυτιλίας ἐνέπων ἄνυσίν τε κελεύθου·

310

‘Κλυτέ νυν, οὐ μὲν πάντα πέλει θέμις ὕμμι  
 δαῖναι  
 ἀτρεκές· ὅσσα δ’ ὄρωρε θεοῖς φίλον, οὐκ ἐπι-  
 κεύσω.

ἀσάμην καὶ πρόσθε Διὸς νόον ἀφραδίῃσιν  
 χρεῖων ἐξεῖης τε καὶ ἐς τέλος. ὦδε γὰρ αὐτὸς  
 βούλεται ἀνθρώποις ἐπιδενέα θέσφατα φαίνειν  
 μαντροσύνης, ἵνα καὶ τι θεῶν χατέωσι νόοιο.

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"It is not lawful, O sons of Boreas, to strike with your swords the Harpies, the hounds of mighty Zeus; but I myself will give you a pledge, that hereafter they shall not draw near to Phineus."

With these words she took an oath by the waters of Styx, which to all the gods is most dread and most awful, that the Harpies would never thereafter again approach the home of Phineus, son of Agenor, for so it was fated. And the heroes yielding to the oath, turned back their flight to the ship. And on account of this men call them the Islands of Turning though aforetime they called them the Floating Islands. And the Harpies and Iris parted. They entered their den in Minoan Crete; but she sped up to Olympus, soaring aloft on her swift wings.

Meanwhile the chiefs carefully cleansed the old man's squalid skin and with due selection sacrificed sheep which they had borne away from the spoil of Amycus. And when they had laid a huge supper in the hall, they sat down and feasted, and with them feasted Phineus ravenously, delighting his soul, as in a dream. And there, when they had taken their fill of food and drink, they kept awake all night waiting for the sons of Boreas. And the aged sire himself sat in the midst, near the hearth, telling of the end of their voyage and the completion of their journey:

"Listen then. Not everything is it lawful for you to know clearly; but whatever is heaven's will, I will not hide. I was infatuated aforetime, when in my folly I declared the will of Zeus in order and to the end. For he himself wishes to deliver to men the utterances of the prophetic art incomplete, in order that they may still have some need to know the will of heaven.

‘ Πέτρας μὲν πάμπρωτον, ἀφορμηθέντες ἐμεῖο,  
Κυανέας ὄψεσθε δὺν ἄλως ἐν ξυνοχῇσιν,  
τάων οὔτιν’ ἀφ’ ἡμῶν διαμπερὲς ἐξαλέασθαι.  
οὐ γάρ τε ῥίξουσιν ἐρήρεινται νεάτρησιν,  
ἀλλὰ θαμὰ ξυνίασιν ἐναντίαι ἀλλήλησιν  
εἰς ἓν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν ἄλως κορβύεται ὕδωρ  
βρασσόμενον· στρηγνὲς δὲ περὶ στυφελῇ βρέμει  
ἁκτῇ.

320

τῷ νῦν ἡμετέρησι παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε,  
εἰ ἐτεὸν πυκινῷ τε νόφ’ μακάρων τ’ ἀλέγοντες  
πείρετε· μὴδ’ αὐτως αὐτάρχετον οἶτον ὀλησθε  
ἀφραδέως, ἢ θύνετ’ ἐπισπόμενοι νεότητι.  
οἶωνῷ δὴ πρόσθε πελειάδι πειρήσασθαι  
νῆος ἄπο προμεθέντες ἐφίεμεν. ἦν δὲ δι’ αὐτῶν  
πετράων πόντονδε σὺν πτερύγεσσι δίηται,  
μηκέτι δὴν μὴδ’ αὐτοὶ ἐρητύεσθε κελεύθου,  
ἀλλ’ εὐκαρτύναντες ἑαῖς ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ  
τέμνετ’ ἄλως στεινωπὸν· ἐπεὶ φάος οὐ νύ τι τόσσον  
ἔσσετ’ ἐν εὐχολῇσιν, ὅσον τ’ ἐνὶ κάρτει χειρῶν.  
τῷ καὶ τὰλλα μεθέντες ὀνήιστον πονέεσθαι  
θαρσαλέως. πρὶν δ’ οὔτι θεοὺς λίσσεσθαι ἐρύκει.  
εἰ δέ κεν ἀντικρὺ πταμένη μεσσηγὺς ὀληται,  
ἄψορροι στέλλεσθαι· ἐπεὶ πολὺ βέλτερον εἶξαι  
ἀθανάτοισι. οὐ γάρ κε κακὸν μόρον ἐξαλέαισθε  
πετράων, οὐδ’ εἰ κε σιδηρεῖη πέλοι Ἀργῶ.

330

340

‘ Ὡ μέλαιοι, μὴ τλήτε παρὲξ ἐμὰ θέσφατα βῆναι,  
εἰ καὶ με τρὶς τόσσον ὀίεσθ’ Οὐρανίδησιν,  
ὅσσον ἀνάρσιός εἰμι, καὶ εἰ πλείον στυγέεσθαι·  
μὴ τλήτ’ οἶωνοῖο πάρεξ ἔτι νηὶ περῆσαι.  
καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς κε πέλη, τῶς ἔσσεται. ἦν δὲ φύγητε  
σύνδρομα πετράων ἀσκηθέες ἐνδοθι Πόντου,  
αὐτίκα Βιθυνῶν ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαῖαν ἔχοντες



πλώετε ῥηγμίνας πεφυλαγμένοι, εἰσόκεν αὖτε  
 Ῥήβαν ὠκυρόην ποταμὸν ἄκρην τε Μέλαιναν  
 γνάμψαντες νήσου Θυνηίδος ὄρμον ἱκησθε. 350  
 κεῖθεν δ' οὐ μάλα πούλῳ διέξ' ἀλὸς ἀντιπέραιαν  
 γῆν Μαρνανδυνῶν ἐπικέλσετε νοστήσαντες.  
 ἔνθα μὲν εἰς Ἀίδαο καταιβάτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος,  
 ἄκρην τε προβλής Ἀχερουσιάς ὑψόθι τείνει,  
 δινῆεις τ' Ἀχέρων αὐτὴν διὰ νειόθι τέμνων  
 ἄκρην ἐκ μεγάλης προχοᾶς ἵησι φάραγγος.  
 ἀγχιμόλον δ' ἐπὶ τῇ πολέας παρανεῖσθε κολωνοὺς  
 Παφλαγόνων, τοῖσιν τ' Ἐνετήιος ἐμβασίλευσεν  
 πρῶτα Πέλοψ, τοῦ καὶ περ ἄφ' αἵματος εὐχετό-  
 ωνται.

Ἔστι δέ τις ἄκρην Ἑλίκης κατεναντίον Ἄρκτου, 360  
 πάντοθεν ἡλίβατος, καὶ μιν καλέουσι Κάραμβιν,  
 τῆς καὶ ὑπὲρ βορέας περισχίζονται ἄελλαι·  
 ὧδε μάλ' ἂμ πέλαγος τετραμμένη αἰθέρι κύρει.  
 τήνδε περιγνάμψαντι πολὺς παρακέκλειται ἤδη  
 Λίγυαλός· πολέος δ' ἐπὶ πείρασιν Λίγυαλοῖο  
 ἀκτῇ ἐπὶ προβλήτι ῥοαὶ Ἄλνος ποταμοῖο  
 δεινὸν ἐρεύγονται· μετὰ τὸν δ' ἀρχίρροος Ἴρις  
 μειότερος λευκῇσιν ἐλίσσεται εἰς ἅλα δίναις. 370  
 κεῖθεν δὲ προτέρωσε μέγας καὶ ὑπείροχος ἀγκῶν  
 ἐξανέχει γαίης· ἐπὶ δὲ στόμα Θερμώδοντος  
 κόλπῳ ἐν εὐδιόωντι Θερμοκύρειον ὑπ' ἄκρην  
 μύρεται, εὐρείης διαειμένος ἡπείροιο.  
 ἔνθα δὲ Δοϊάντος πεδίον, σχεδόμεν δὲ πόλῃς  
 τρισσαὶ Ἀμαζονίδων, μετὰ τε σμυγερώτατοι  
 ἀνδρῶν

τρηχεῖαν Χάλυβες καὶ Ἀτειρέα γαῖαν ἔχουσιν,  
 ἐργατίται· τοὶ δ' ἀμφὶ σιδήρεα ἔργα μέλονται.  
 ἀγχι δὲ ναιετάουσι πολύρρηνες Τιβαρηνοὶ

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right and sail on, and beware of the breakers, until ye round the swift river Rhebas and the black beach, and reach the harbour of the Isle of Thynias. Thence ye must turn back a little space through the sea and beach your ship on the land of the Marian-dyni lying opposite. Here is a downward path to the abode of Hades, and the headland of Acherusia stretches aloft, and eddying Acheron cleaves its way at the bottom, even through the headland, and sends its waters forth from a huge ravine. And near it ye will sail past many hills of the Paphlagonians, over whom at the first Eneteian Pelops reigned, and of his blood they boast themselves to be.

"Now there is a headland opposite Helice the Bear, steep on all sides, and they call it Carambis, about whose crests the blasts of the north wind are sundered. So high in the air does it rise turned towards the sea. And when ye have rounded it broad Aegialus stretches before you; and at the end of broad Aegialus, at a jutting point of coast, the waters of the river Halys pour forth with a terrible roar; and after it Iris flowing near, but smaller in stream, rolls into the sea with white eddies. Onward from thence the bend of a huge and towering cape reaches out from the land, next Thermodon at its mouth flows into a quiet bay at the Themiscyrcian headland, after wandering through a broad continent. And here is the plain of Docas, and near are the three cities of the Amazons, and after them the Chalybes, most wretched of men, possess a soil rugged and unyielding—sons of toil, they busy themselves with working iron. And near them dwell the Tibareni, rich in sheep, beyond the

Ζηνὸς Ἐυξείνοιο Γενηταίην ὑπὲρ ἄκρην.  
 τῇ δ' ἐπὶ Μοσσύνοικοι ὁμούριοι ὑλήεσσαν  
 ἐξείης ἠπειρον, ὑπωρείας τε νέμονται,  
 δουρατέους πύργοισιν ἐν οἰκία τεκτῆναντες<sup>1</sup>  
 κάλινα καὶ θαλάμους<sup>2</sup> εὐπηγέας, οὗς καλέουσιν  
 μόσσυνας· καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἔνθεν ἔασιν.  
 τοὺς παραμειβόμενοι λισσῇ ἐπικέλσετε νήσω,  
 μήτι παντοίῃ μέγ' ἀναιδέας ἐξελάσαντες  
 οἰωνούς, οἳ δῆθεν ἀπειρέσιοι ἐφέπουσιν  
 νήσον ἐρημαίην. τῇ μὲν τ' ἐν νηὶ Ἄρης  
 λαίνεον ποίησαν Ἀμαζονίδων βασίλειαι  
 Ὀτρηρή τε καὶ Ἀντιόπη, ὅποτε στρατόωντο.  
 ἔνθα γὰρ ὕμιν ὄνειαρ ἄδευκέος ἐξ ἁλὸς εἰσιν  
 ἄρρητον· τῷ καὶ τε φίλα φρονέων ἀγορεύω  
 ἰσχέμεν. ἀλλὰ τί με πάλιν χρεῖω ἀλιτέσθαι  
 μαντοσύνη τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκὲς ἐξενέποντα;  
 νήσου δὲ προτέρωσε καὶ ἠπείροιο περαίης  
 φέρβονται Φίλυρες· Φιλύρων δ' ἐφύπερθεν ἔασιν  
 Μάκρωνες· μετὰ δ' αὖ περιώσια φύλα Βεχείρων.  
 ἐξείης δὲ Σάπειρες ἐπὶ σφίσιναιετᾶουσιν·  
 Βύζηρες δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὁμώλακες, ὧν ὑπερ ἤδη  
 αὐτοὶ Κόλχοι ἔχονται ἀρήιοι. ἀλλ' ἐν νηὶ  
 πείρεθ', ἕως μυχάτῃ κεν ἐνιχρίμψητε θαλάσση.  
 ἔνθα δ' ἐπ' ἠπείροιο Κυταιῶδες, ἧδ' Ἀμαραντῶν  
 τηλόθεν ἐξ ὁρέων πεδίοιό τε Κιρκαίοιο  
 Φᾶσις δινήεις εὐρὺν ῥόον εἰς ἅλα βάλλει.  
 κείνου νῆ' ἐλάοντες ἐπὶ προχοᾷς ποταμοῖο  
 πύργους εἰσόψεσθε Κυταιῶς Αἰήταο,  
 ἅλσος τε σκίοειν Ἄρεος, τόθι κῶας ἐπ' ἄκρης

380

390

400

<sup>1</sup> After this line Brunck omitted the next two lines and since his time they have not been counted.

<sup>2</sup> θαλάμους Merkel: πύργοι MSS.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

terrible to behold, ever glares around, keeping watch over the fleece that is spread upon the top of an oak; neither by day nor by night does sweet sleep subdue his restless eyes."

Thus he spake, and straightway fear seized them as they heard. And for a long while they were struck with silence; till at last the hero, son of Aeson, spake, sore dismayed at their evil plight:

"O aged sire, now hast thou come to the end of the toils of our sea-journeying and hast told us the token, trusting to which we shall make our way to Pontus through the hateful rocks; but whether, when we have escaped them, we shall have a return back again to Hellas, this too would we gladly learn from thee. What shall I do, how shall I go over again such a long path through the sea, unskilled as I am, with unskilled comrades? And Colchian Aea lies at the edge of Pontus and of the world."

Thus he spake, and him the aged sire addressed in reply: "O son, when once thou has escaped through the deadly rocks, fear not; for a deity will be the guide from Aea by another track; and to Aea there will be guides enough. But, my friends, take thought of the artful aid of the Cyprian goddess. For on her depends the glorious issue of your venture. And further than this ask me not."

Thus spake Agenor's son, and close at hand the twin sons of Thracian Boreas came darting from the sky and set their swift feet upon the threshold; and the heroes rose up from their seats when they saw them present. And Zetes, still drawing hard breath after his toil, spake among the eager listeners, telling them how far they had driven the Harpies and how Iris prevented their slaying them, and how the

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

goddess of her grace gave them pledges, and how those others in fear plunged into the vast cave of the Dictæan cliff. Then in the mansion all their comrades were joyful at the tidings and so was Phineus himself. And quickly Aeson's son, with good will exceeding, addressed him :

"Assuredly there was then, Phineus, some god who cared for thy bitter woe, and brought us hither from afar, that the sons of Boreas might aid thee ; and if too he should bring sight to thine eyes, verily I should rejoice, methinks, as much as if I were on my homeward way."

Thus he spake, but Phineus replied to him with downcast look : "Son of Aeson, that is past recall, nor is there any remedy hereafter, for blasted are my sightless eyes. But instead of that, may the god grant me death at once, and after death I shall take my share in perfect bliss."

Then they two returned answering speech, each to other, and soon in the midst of their converse early dawn appeared ; and round Phineus were gathered the neighbours who used to come thither aforetime day by day and constantly bring a portion of their food. To all alike, however poor he was that came, the aged man gave his oracles with good will, and freed many from their woes by his prophetic art ; wherefore they visited and tended him. And with them came Paræbius, who was dearest to him, and gladly did he perceive these strangers in the house. For long ere now the seer himself had said that a band of chieftains, faring from Hellas to the city of Acetes, would make fast their hawsers to the Thynian land, and by Zeus' will would check the approach of the Harpies. The rest the old man

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

pleased with words of wisdom and let them go ; Paracbius only he bade remain there with the chiefs ; and straightway he sent him and bade him bring back the choicest of his sheep. And when he had left the hall Phineus spake gently amid the throng of oarsmen :

“ O my friends, not all men are arrogant, it seems, nor unmindful of benefits. Even as this man, loyal as he is, came hither to learn his fate. For when he laboured the most and toiled the most, then the needs of life, ever growing more and more, would waste him, and day after day ever dawned more wretched, nor was there any respite to his toil. But he was paying the sad penalty of his father's sin. For he when alone on the mountains, felling trees, once slighted the prayers of a Hamadryad, who wept and sought to soften him with plaintive words, not to cut down the stump of an oak tree coeval with herself, wherein for a long time she had lived continually ; but he in the arrogance of youth recklessly cut it down. So to him the nymph thereafter made her death a curse, to him and to his children. I indeed knew of the sin when he came ; and I bid him build an altar to the Thynian nymph, and offer on it an atoning sacrifice, with prayer to escape his father's fate. Here, ever since he escaped the god-sent doom, never has he forgotten or neglected me ; but sorely and against his will do I send him from my doors, so eager is he to remain with me in my affliction.”

Thus spake Agenor's son ; and his friend straightway came near leading two sheep from the flock.

ἂν δὲ Βορήιοι νῆες ἐφημοσύνησι γέροντος.  
 ὧκα δὲ κεκλόμενοι μαντήιον Ἀπόλλωνα  
 ῥέξον ἐπ' ἐσχαρόφιν νέον ἡματος ἀνομένιοιο.  
 κουρότεροι δ' ἐτάρων μενσεικέα δαῖτ' ἀλέγνυν.  
 ἔνθ' εὖ δαισάμενοι, τοὶ μὲν παρὰ πείσμασι νηός,  
 τοὶ δ' αὐτοῦ κατὰ δώματ' ἀολλέες εὐνάζοντο.  
 ἦρι δ' ἐτήσιαι αὖραι ἐπέχραον, αἴτ' ἀνὰ πᾶσαν  
 γαῖαν ὁμῶς τοιῇδε Διὸς πνεύουσιν ἀνωγῇ.

Κυρήνη πέφαται τις ἔλος πάρα Πηνειοῖο  
 μῆλα νέμειν προτέροισι παρ' ἀνδράσιν· εὐαδε γάρ  
 οἱ

500

παρθενίη καὶ λέκτρον ἀκήρατον. αὐτὰρ Ἀπόλλων  
 τήνγ' ἀνερειψάμενος ποταμῷ ἐπὶ ποιμαίνουσαν  
 τηλόθεν Λίμονίης, χθονίαις παρακάτθετο νύμφαις,  
 αἱ Λιβύην ἐνέμοντο παρὰ Μύρτωσιον αἶπος.  
 ἔνθα δ' Ἀρισταῖον Φοῖβος τέκεν, ὃν καλέουσιν  
 Ἀγρέα καὶ Νόμιον πολυλήμοι Λίμονιῆς.  
 τὴν μὲν γὰρ φιλότῃ θεὸς ποιήσατο νύμφην  
 αὐτοῦ μακράϊωνα καὶ ἀγρότιν· νῖα δ' ἐνείκεν  
 νηπίαχον Χείρωνος ὑπ' ἀντροῖσιν κομέεσθαι.  
 τῷ καὶ ἀεξηθέντι θεαὶ γάμον ἐμνήστευσαν  
 Μοῦσαι, Ἀεστορίην τε θεοπροπίας τ' ἐδίδαξαν  
 καὶ μιν ἑὼν μῆλων θέσαν ἥρανον, ὅσσ' ἐνέμοντο  
 ἄμ πεδίον Φθίης Ἀθαμάντιον ἄμφι τ' ἐρυμνὴν  
 Ὀθρυν καὶ ποταμοῦ ἱερὸν ῥόον Ἀπιδανοῖο.  
 ἦμος δ' οὐρανόθεν Μινωίδας ἔφλεγε νήσους  
 Σείριος, οὐδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἦν ἄκος ἐνναέτησιν,  
 τῆμος τόνγ' ἐκάλεσσαν ἐφημοσύναις Ἑκάτοιο  
 λοιμοῦ ἀλεξητῆρα. λίπεν δ' ὄγε πατὴρ ἐφετμῇ  
 Φθίην, ἐν δὲ Κέῳ κατενάσσατο, λαὸν ἀγείρας

510

520

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

in Ceos, and gathered together the Parrhasian people who are of the lineage of Lycaon, and he built a great altar to Zeus Iemaeus, and duly offered sacrifices upon the mountains to that star Sirius, and to Zeus son of Cronos himself. And on this account it is that Etesian winds from Zeus cool the land for forty days, and in Ceos even now the priests offer sacrifices before the rising of the Dog-star.

So the tale is told, but the chieftains stayed there by constraint, and every day the Thynians, doing pleasure to Phineus, sent them gifts beyond measure. And afterwards they raised an altar to the blessed twelve on the sea-beach opposite and laid offerings thereon and then entered their swift ship to row, nor did they forget to bear with them a trembling dove; but Euphemus seized her and brought her all quivering with fear, and they loosed the twin hawsers from the land.

Nor did they start unmarked by Athena, but straightway swiftly she set her feet on a light cloud, which would waft her on, mighty though she was, and she swept on to the sea with friendly thoughts to the oarsmen. And as when one roveeth far from his native land, as we men often wander with enduring heart, nor is any land too distant but all ways are clear to his view, and he sees in mind his own home, and at once the way over sea and land seems plain, and swiftly thinking, now this way, now that, he strains with eager eyes; so swiftly the daughter of Zeus darted down and set her foot on the cheerless shore of Thynia.

Now when they reached the narrow strait of the winding passage, hemmed in on both sides by rugged cliffs, while an eddying current from below was



νῆα ῥόος, πολλὸν δὲ φόβῳ προτέρωσεν νέοντο,  
ἤδη δὲ σφισι δούπος ἀρασσομένων πετράων  
νωλεμές οὐατ' ἔβαλλε, βόων δ' ἀλιμυρές ἀκταί,  
δὴ τότε ἔπειθ' ὁ μὲν ὦρτο πελειάδα χειρὶ μεμαρ-  
πῶς

Εὐφημος πρόφρην ἐπιβήμεναι· οἱ δ' ὑπ' ἀνωγῇ  
Τίφυος Ἀγνιάδαο θελήμονα ποιήσαντο  
εἰρεσίην, ἴν' ἔπειτα διέκ πέτρας ἐλάσειαν,  
κάρτεϊ ᾧ πίσυνοι. τὰς δ' αὐτίκα λοίσθιον ἄλλων  
οἴγομένας ἀγκῶνα περιγυάμψαντες ἴδοντο. 500  
σὺν δὲ σφιν χύτο θυμός· ὁ δ' αἶξαι πτερύγεσσι  
Εὐφημος προέθηκε πελειάδα· τοῖ δ' ἅμα πάντες  
ἤειραν κεφαλὰς ἐσορώμενοι· ἡ δὲ δι' αὐτῶν  
ἔπατο· ταὶ δ' ἄμυδις πάλιν ἀντίαι ἀλλήλησιν  
ἄμφω ὁμοῦ ξυνιοῦσαι ἐπέκτυπον. ὦρτο δὲ πολλὰ  
ἄλμῃ ἀναβρασθεῖσα, νέφος ὥς· αὖτε δὲ πόντος  
σμερδαλέον· πάντα δὲ περὶ μέγας ἔβρεμεν αἰθήρ.

Κοῖλαι δὲ σπῆλυγγες ὑπὸ σπιλάδας τρηχέας  
κλυζούσης ἁλὸς ἔνδον ἐβόμβεον· ὑψόθι δ' ὄχθης  
λευκὴ καχλαίζοντος ἀνέπτυνε κύματος ἄχνη. 570  
νῆα δ' ἔπειτα πέριξ εἴλει ῥόος. ἄκρα δ' ἔκοψαν  
οὐραῖα πτερὰ ταίγε πελειάδος· ἡ δ' ἀπόρουσεν  
ἀσκηθῆς. ἐρέται δὲ μέγ' ἰαχὸν ἔβραχε δ' αὐτὸς  
Τίφυς ἐρεσσέμεναι κρατερῶς. οἴγοντο γὰρ αὐτὶς  
ἄνδιχα. τοὺς δ' ἐλάοντας ἔχεν τρόμος, ὅφρα μιν  
αὐτῇ

πλημμυρὶς παλίνορσος ἀνερχομένη κατένεικεν  
εἰσὼ πετράων. τότε δ' αἰνότατον δέος εἶλεν  
πάντας· ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς γὰρ ἀμήχανος ἦεν ὄλεθρος.  
ἤδη δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διὰ πλατὺς εἶδετο Πόντος,  
καὶ σφισιν ἀπροφάτως ἀνέδυν μέγα κύμα πάροιθεν 580  
κυρτόν, ἀποτμήγι σκοπιῇ ἴσον· οἱ δ' ἐσιδόντες

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

about to leap down upon the ship's whole length and to overwhelm them. But Tiphys was quick to ease the ship as she laboured with the oars; and in all its mass the wave rolled away beneath the keel, and at the stern it raised Argo herself and drew her far away from the rocks; and high in air was she borne. But Euphemus strode among all his comrades and cried to them to bend to their oars with all their might; and they with a shout smote the water. And as far as the ship yielded to the rowers, twice as far did she leap back, and the oars were bent like curved bows as the heroes used their strength.

Then a vaulted billow rushed upon them, and the ship like a cylinder ran on the furious wave plunging through the hollow sea. And the eddying current held her between the clashing rocks; and on each side they shook and thundered; and the ship's timbers were held fast. Then Athena with her left hand thrust back one mighty rock and with her right pushed the ship through; and she, like a winged arrow, sped through the air. Nevertheless the rocks, ceaselessly clashing, shore off as she passed the extreme end of the stern-ornament. But Athena soared up to Olympus, when they had escaped unscathed. And the rocks in one spot at that moment were rooted fast for ever to each other, which thing had been destined by the blessed gods, when a man in his ship should have passed between them alive. And the heroes breathed again after their chilling fear, beholding at the same time the sky and the expanse of sea spreading far and wide. For they deemed that they were saved from Hades; and Tiphys first of all began to speak:

Ἐλπομαι αὐτῇ νηὶ τόγ' ἔμπεδον ἐξαλέασθαι  
 ἡμέας· οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ἐπαίτιος, ὅσσον' Ἀθήνη,  
 ἣ οἱ ἐνέπνευσεν θεῖον μένος, εὐτέ μιν Ἄργος  
 γόμφοισιν συνάρασσε· θέμις δ' οὐκ ἔστιν ἀλῶναι.  
 Αἰσονίδῃ, τύνῃ δὲ τεοῦ βασιλῆος ἐφετμήν,  
 εὔτε διῆκ πέτρας φυγέειν θεὸς ἡμῖν ὕπασσεν,  
 μηκέτι δείδωμι τοῖον· ἐπεὶ μετόπισθεν ἀέθλους  
 εὐπαλέας τελέεσθαι Ἀγηνορίδης φάτο Φινεύς·

Ἡ ῥ' ἄμα, καὶ προτέρωσε παρὰ Βιθυνίδα  
 γαῖαν

νηῖα διῆκ πέλαγος σέυεν μέσον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τότε 020  
 μείλιχίους ἐπέεσσι παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·  
 Ὕψυ, τίη μοι ταῦτα παρηγορέεις ἀχέοντι;  
 ἡμβροτον ἁσάμην τε κακὴν καὶ ἀμύχανον αἶτην.  
 χρὴν γὰρ ἐφιεμένοιο καταντικρὺ Πελῖας  
 αὐτίκ' ἀνήνασθαι τόνδε στόλον, εἰ καὶ ἔμελλον  
 νηλεῶς μελεῖστί κεδαιόμενος θανέεσθαι·  
 νῦν δὲ περισσὸν δεῖμα καὶ ἀτλήτους μελεδῶνας  
 ἄγκειμαι, στυγέων μὲν ἄλός κρυόεντα κέλευθα  
 νηὶ διαπλώειν, στυγέων δ', ὅτ' ἐπ' ἠπείροιο 030  
 βαίνωμεν. πάντα γὰρ ἀνάρσιοι ἄνδρες ἔασιν.  
 αἰεὶ δὲ στονόεσσαν ἐπ' ἡματι νύκτα φυλάσσω,  
 ἐξότε τὸ πρῶτιστον ἐμὴν χάριν ἠγερέθεσθε,  
 φραζόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα· σὺ δ' εὐμαρέως ἀγορεύεις  
 οἷον ἐῆς ψυχῆς ἀλέγων ὑπερ· αὐτὰρ ἔγωγε  
 εἰο μὲν οὐδ' ἥβαιὸν ἀτύζομαι· ἀμφὶ δὲ τοῖο  
 καὶ τοῦ ὁμῶς, καὶ σεῖο, καὶ ἄλλων δείδι' ἐταίρων  
 εἰ μὴ ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἀπήμονας ὕμμε κομίσσω·

Ὡς φάτ' ἀριστήων πειρώμενος· οἱ δ' ὁμάδῃσιν  
 θαρσαλέοις ἐπέεσσιν. ὁ δὲ φρένας ἔνδον ἰάνθη  
 κεκλομένων, καὶ ῥ' αὖτις ἐπιρρήδην μετέειπεν 040

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

"It is my hope that we have safely escaped this peril—we, and the ship; and none other is the cause so much as Athena, who breathed into Argo divine strength when Argus knitted her together with bolts; and she may not be caught. Son of Aeson, no longer fear thou so much the hest of thy king, since a god hath granted us escape between the rocks; for Phineus, Agenor's son, said that our toils hereafter would be lightly accomplished."

He spake, and at once he sped the ship onward through the midst of the sea past the Bithynian coast. But Jason with gentle words addressed him in reply: "Tiphys, why dost thou comfort thus my grieving heart? I have erred and am distraught in wretched and helpless ruin. For I ought, when Pelias gave the command, to have straightway refused this quest to his face, yea, though I were doomed to die pitilessly, torn limb from limb, but now I am wrapped in excessive fear and cares unbearable, dreading to sail through the chilling paths of the sea, and dreading when we shall set foot on the mainland. For on every side are unkindly men. And ever when day is done I pass a night of groans from the time when ye first gathered together for my sake, while I take thought for all things; but thou talkest at thine ease, caring only for thine own life; while for myself I am dismayed not a whit; but I fear for this man and for that equally, and for thee, and for my other comrades, if I shall not bring you back safe to the land of Hellas."

Thus he spake, making trial of the chiefs; but they shouted loud with cheerful words. And his heart was warmed within him at their cry and again he spake outright among them:

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"My friends, in your valour my courage is quickened. Wherefore now, even though I should take my way through the gulfs of Hades, no more shall I let fear seize upon me, since ye are steadfast amid cruel terrors. But now that we have sailed out from the striking rocks, I trow that never hereafter will there be another such fearful thing, if indeed we go on our way following the counsel of Phineus."

Thus he spake, and straightway they ceased from such words and gave unwearying labour to the oar; and quickly they passed by the swiftly flowing river Rhebas and the peak of Colone, and soon thereafter the Black headland, and near it the mouth of the river Phyllis, where aforetime Dipsacus received in his home the son of Athamas, when with his ram he was flying from the city of Orchomenus; and Dipsacus was the son of a meadow-nymph, nor was insolence his delight, but contented by his father's stream he dwelt with his mother, pasturing his flocks by the shore. And quickly they sighted and sailed past his shrine and the broad banks of the river and the plain, and deep-flowing Calpe, and all the windless night and the day they bent to their tireless oars. And even as ploughing oxen toil as they cleave the moist earth, and sweat streams in abundance from flank and neck; and from beneath the yoke their eyes roll askance, while the breath ever rushes from their mouths in hot gasps; and all day long they toil, planting their hoofs deep in the ground; like them the heroes kept dragging their oars through the sea.

Now when divine light has not yet come nor is it utter darkness, but a faint glimmer has spread over the night, the time when men wake and call it

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

twilight, at that hour they ran into the harbour of the desert island Thynias and, spent by weary toil, mounted the shore. And to them the son of Leto, as he passed from Lycia far away to the countless folk of the Hyperboreans, appeared; and about his cheeks on both sides his golden locks flowed in clusters as he moved; in his left hand he held a silver bow, and on his back was slung a quiver hanging from his shoulders; and beneath his feet all the island quaked, and the waves surged high on the beach. Helpless amazement seized them as they looked; and no one dared to gaze face to face into the fair eyes of the god. And they stood with heads bowed to the ground; but he, far off, passed on to the sea through the air; and at length Orpheus spake as follows, addressing the chiefs:

"Come, let us call this island the sacred isle of Apollo of the Dawn since he has appeared to all, passing by at dawn; and we will offer such sacrifices as we can, building an altar on the shore; and if hereafter he shall grant us a safe return to the Haemonian land, then will we lay on his altar the thighs of horned goats. And now I bid you propitiate him with the steam of sacrifice and libations. Be gracious, O king, be gracious in thy appearing."

Thus he spake, and they straightway built up an altar with shingle; and over the island they wandered, seeking if haply they could get a glimpse of a fawn or a wild goat, that often seek their pasture in the deep wood. And for them Leto's son provided a quarry; and with pious rites they wrapped in fat the thigh bones of them all and burnt them on the sacred altar, celebrating Apollo, Lord of Dawn. And round the burning sacrifice they set up a broad

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

dancing-ring, singing, "All hail, fair god of healing, Phoebus, all hail," and with them Oeagrus' goodly son began a clear lay on his Bistonian lyre; how once beneath the rocky ridge of Parnassus he slew with his bow the monster Delphyne, he, still young and beardless, still rejoicing in his long tresses. Mayst thou be gracious! Ever, O king, be thy locks unshorn, ever unravaged; for so is it right. And none but Leto, daughter of Cocus, strokes them with her dear hands. And often the Corycian nymphs, daughters of Pleistus, took up the cheering strain crying "Healer"; hence arose this lovely refrain of the hymn to Phoebus.

Now when they had celebrated him with dance and song they took an oath with holy libations, that they would ever help each other with concord of heart, touching the sacrifice as they swore; and even now there stands there a temple to gracious Concord, which the heroes themselves reared, paying honour at that time to the glorious goddess.

Now when the third morning came, with a fresh west wind they left the lofty island. Next, on the opposite side they saw and passed the mouth of the river Sangarius and the fertile land of the Mariandyni, and the stream of Lycus and the Anthemocisian lake; and beneath the breeze the ropes and all the tackling quivered as they sped onward. During the night the wind ceased and at dawn they gladly reached the haven of the Acherusian headland. It rises aloft with steep cliffs, looking towards the Bithynian sea; and beneath it smooth rocks, ever washed by the sea, stand rooted firm; and round them the wave rolls and thunders loud, but above, wide-spreading plane trees

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grow on the topmost point. And from it towards the land a hollow glen slopes gradually away, where there is a cave of Hades overarched by wood and rocks. From here an icy breath, unceasingly issuing from the chill recess, ever forms a glistening rime which melts again beneath the midday sun. And never does silence hold that grim headland, but there is a continual murmur from the sounding sea and the leaves that quiver in the winds from the cave. And here is the outfall of the river Acheron which bursts its way through the headland and falls into the Eastern sea, and a hollow ravine brings it down from above. In after times the Nisæan Megarians named it *Soönautes*<sup>1</sup> when they were about to settle in the land of the Mariandyni. For indeed the river saved them with their ships when they were caught in a violent tempest. By this way the heroes took the ship through<sup>2</sup> the Acherusian headland and came to land over against it as the wind had just ceased.

Not long had they come unmarked by Lycus, the lord of that land, and the Mariandyni—they, the slayers of Amycus, according to the report which the people heard before; but for that very deed they even made a league with the heroes. And Polydeuces himself they welcomed as a god, flocking from every side, since for a long time had they been warring against the arrogant Bebrycians. And so they went up all together into the city, and all that day with friendly feelings made ready a feast within the palace of Lycus and gladdened their souls with converse. Aeson's son told him the lineage and

<sup>1</sup> i.e. Saviour of sailors.

<sup>2</sup> i.e. through the ravine that divides the headland.



σφωιτέρων μυθεῖθ' ἐτάρων, Πελίαό τ' ἐφετμάς,  
 ἦδ' ὡς Δημνιάδεσσιν ἐπεξεινοῦντο γυναιξίν,  
 ὅσσα τε Κύζικον ἀμφὶ Δολιρινήν ἐτέλεσαν  
 Μυσίδα δ' ὡς ἀφίκοντο Κίον θ', ὅθι κάλλιπον ἥρω  
 Ἑρακλέην ἀέκοντι νόρῳ, Γλαύκοιό τε βάξιν  
 πέφραδε, καὶ Βέβρυκας ὅπως Ἀμυκόν τ' ἐδάξαν,  
 καὶ Φινῆος ἔειπε θεοπροπίας τε δύνῃ τε,  
 ἦδ' ὡς Κυανέας πέτρας φύγον, ὡς τ' ἀβόλησαν  
 Λητοῖδῃ κατὰ νῆσον. ὁ δ' ἐξείης ἐνέποντος  
 θέλγεται ἀκουῇ θυμόν· ἄχος δ' ἔλεν Ἑρακλεῖ  
 λειπομένῳ, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος πάντεσσι μετηύδα·

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ᾧ φίλοι, οἷον φῶτος ἀποπλαγχθέντες ἀρωγῆς  
 πείρετ' ἐς Λιήτην τόσσον πλόον. εὐ γὰρ ἐγὼ μιν  
 Δασκύλου ἐν μεγάροισι κατανόθι πατρὸς ἐμοῖο  
 οἶδ' ἐσιδών, ὅτε δεῦρο δι' Ἀσίδος ἠπείροιο  
 πεζὸς ἔβη ζωστήρα φιλοπτολέμοιο κομίζων  
 Ἱππολύτης· ἐμὲ δ' εὔρε νέον χροάοντα ἰούλους.  
 ἔνθα δ' ἐπὶ Πριόλαο κασσιγνήτοιο θανόντος  
 ἡμετέρου Μυσοῖσιν ὑπ' ἀνδράσιν, ὄντινα λαὸς  
 οἰκτίστοις ἐλέγοισιν ὀδύρεται ἐξέτι κείνου,  
 ἀθλεύων Τιτίην ἀπεκαίνυντο πυγμαχέοντα  
 καρτερόν, ὃς πάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν ἠϊθέοισιν  
 εἰδὸς τ' ἠδὲ βίην· χαμῖδες δέ οἱ ἤλασ' ὀδόντας.  
 αὐτὰρ ὁμοῦ Μυσοῖσιν ἐμῷ ὑπὸ πατρὶ δάμασσει  
 καὶ Φρύγας,<sup>1</sup> οἳ ναίουσιν ὁμώλακας ἡμῖν ἀρούρας,  
 φύλλά τε Βιθυνῶν αὐτῇ κτεατίσσατο γαίῃ,  
 ἔστ' ἐπὶ Ῥηβαίου προχοᾶς σκόπελόν τε Κολώνης·  
 Παφλαγόνες τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Πελοπήιοι εἵκαθον αὐτως,

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<sup>1</sup> καὶ Φρύγας] Μήδωνας is given in the scholia as a variant.

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name of each of his comrades and the behests of Pelias, and how they were welcomed by the Lemnian women, and all that they did at Dolionian Cyzicus; and how they reached the Mysian land and Cius, where, sore against their will, they left behind the hero Hercules, and he told the saying of Glaucus, and how they slew the Bebrycians and Amycus, and he told of the prophecies and affliction of Phineus, and how they escaped the Cynean rocks, and how they met with Leto's son at the island. And as he told all, Lycus was charmed in soul with listening; and he grieved for Hercules left behind, and spake as follows among them all:

"O friends, what a man he was from whose help ye have fallen away, as ye cleave your long path to Aeetes; for well do I know that I saw him here in the halls of Dascylus my father, when he came hither on foot through the land of Asia bringing the girdle of warlike Hippolyte; and me he found with the down just growing on my cheeks. And here, when my brother Priolas was slain by the Mysians—my brother, whom ever since the people lament with most piteous dirges—he entered the lists with Titias in boxing and slew him, mighty Titias, who surpassed all the youths in beauty and strength; and he dashed his teeth to the ground. Together with the Mysians he subdued beneath my father's sway the Phrygians also, who inhabit the lands next to us, and he made his own the tribes of the Bithynians and their land, as far as the mouth of Rhebas and the peak of Colone; and besides them the Paphlagonians of Pelops yielded just as they were,

ὅσους Βιλλαίοιο μέλαν περιάγνυται ὕδωρ.  
 ἀλλὰ με νῦν Βέβρυκες ὑπερβασίῃ τ' Ἀμύκοιο  
 τηλόθι ναιετάοντος, ἐνόσφισαν, Ἡρακλῆος,  
 δὴν ἀποτεμνόμενοι γαίης ἄλιν, ὅφρ' ἐβάλλοντο  
 οὐρα βαθυρρείοντος ὑφ' εἰαμεναῖς Ὑπίοιο.  
 ἔμπης δ' ἐξ ὑμέων ἔδοσαν τίσιν· οὐδέ ἔφημι  
 ἡματι τῷδ' ἀέκητι θεῶν ἐπελάσσαι ἄρηα,  
 Τυνδαρίδην Βέβρυξιν, ὅτ' ἀνέρα κείνον ἔπεφνεν.  
 τῷ νῦν ἦντιν' ἐγὼ τίσαι χάριν ἄρκιός εἰμι,  
 τίσω προφρονέως. ἡ γὰρ θέμις ἠπεδανοῖσιν  
 ἀνδράσιν, εὐτ' ἄρξωσιν ἀρείονες ἄλλοι ὀφέλλειν.  
 ξυνῇ μὲν πάντεσσιν ὁμόστολον ὕμιν ἐπείσθαι  
 Δάσκυλον ὀτρυνέω, ἐμὸν νῆα· τοῖο δ' ἰόντος,  
 ἢ τ' ἂν ἐυξείνοισι διέξ' ἄλὸς ἀντιάοιτε  
 ἀνδράσιν, ὅφρ' αὐτοῖο ποτὶ στόμα Θερμώδοντος.  
 νόσφι δὲ Τυνδαρίδαις Ἀχερουσίδος ὑψόθεν ἄκρης  
 εἴσομαι ἱερὸν αἰπύ· τὸ μὲν μάλα τηλόθι πάντες  
 ναυτίλοι ἅμ' πέλαγος θηεύμενοι ἱλαξονται  
 καὶ κέ σφιν μετέπειτα πρὸ ἄστεος, οἷα θεοῖσιν,  
 πίονας εὐαρότοιο γῆας πεδίοιο ταμοίμην.

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Ὡς τότε μὲν δαῖτ' ἀμφὶ πανήμεροι ἐψιόωντο.  
 ἦρί γε μὴν ἐπὶ νῆα κατήισαν ἐγκονέοντες·  
 καὶ δ' αὐτὸς σὺν τοῖσι Λύκος κίε, μυρὶ ὀπάσσας  
 δῶρα φέρειν ἅμα δ' υἷα δόμων ἐκπεμπε νέεσθαι.  
 Ἔνθα δ' Ἀβαντιάδην πεπρωμένη ἤλασε μοῖρα  
 Ἰδμονα, μαντοσύνησι κεκασμένον· ἀλλὰ μιν οὔτι  
 μαντοσύναι ἐσάωσαν, ἐπεὶ χρεὼ ἦγε δαμῆναι.  
 κεῖτο γὰρ εἰαμενῇ δονακώδεος ἐν ποταμοῖο  
 ψυχόμενος λάγονας τε καὶ ἄσπετον ἱλύι νηδὺν  
 κάπριος ἀργιόδων, ὀλοὸν τέρας, ὃν ῥα καὶ αὐταὶ

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## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

even all those round whom the dark water of Billæus breaks. But now the Bebrycians and the insolence of Amycus have robbed me, since Heracles dwells far away, for they have long been cutting off huge pieces of my land until they have set their bounds at the meadows of deep-flowing Hypius. Nevertheless, by your hands have they paid the penalty; and it was not without the will of heaven, I trow, that he brought war on the Bebrycians this day—he, the son of Tyndareus, when he slew that champion. Wherefore whatever requital I am now able to pay, gladly will I pay it, for that is the rule for weaker men when the stronger begin to help them. So with you all, and in your company, I bid Dascylus my son follow; and if he goes, you will find all men friendly that ye meet on your way through the sea even to the mouth of the river Therimodon. And besides that, to the sons of Tyndareus will I raise a lofty temple on the Acherusian height, which all sailors shall mark far across the sea and shall reverence; and hereafter for them will I set apart outside the city, as for gods, some fertile fields of the well-tilled plain."

Thus all day long they revelled at the banquet. But at dawn they hied down to the ship in haste; and with them went Lycus himself, when he had given them countless gifts to bear away; and with them he sent forth his son from his home.

And here his destined fate smote Idmon, son of Ahas, skilled in soothsaying; but not at all did his soothsaying save him, for necessity drew him on to death. For in the mead of the reedy river there lay, cooling his flanks and huge belly in the mud, a white-tusked boar, a deadly monster, whom even the

νύμφαι ἔλειονόμοι ὑπεδείδισαν· οὐδέ τις ἀνδρῶν  
 ἡίδει· οἷος δὲ κατὰ πλατὺ βόσκετο τίφος.  
 αὐτὰρ ὃγ' ἱλύνεντος ἀνὰ θρωσμοὺς ποταμοῖο  
 ἴσσει· Ἀβαντιάδης· ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο  
 ὕψι μάλ' ἐκ δονάκων ἀνεπάλμενος ἤλασε μηρὸν  
 αἰγδην, μέσσας δὲ σὺν ὀστέφῳ ἱνας ἔκερσεν.  
 ὅξυν δ' ὄγε κλάγξας οὐδεὶ πέσεν· οἱ δὲ τυπέντος  
 ἀθρόοι ἀντιάχισαν. ὀρέξατο δ' αἰψ' ὀλοοῖο  
 Πηλεὺς αἰγανέη φύγαδ' εἰς ἔλος ὀρμηθέντος  
 καπρίον· ἔσσυτο δ' αὖτις ἐναντίος· ἀλλὰ μιν Ἴδας 830  
 οὔτασε, βεβρυχὼς δὲ θοῶ· περικάππεσε δουρί.  
 καὶ τὸν μὲν χαμάδις λίπον αὐτόθι πεπτηῶτα·  
 τὸν δ' ἔταροι ἐπὶ νῆα φέρον ψυχορραγέοντα,  
 ἀχνύμενοι, χεῖρεσσι δ' ἑῶν ἐνικύτθαν' ἑταίρων.  
 Ἔνθα δὲ ναυτιλίας μὲν ἐρητύοντο μέλεισθαι,  
 ἀμφὶ δὲ κηδεῖν νέκυος μένον ἀσχαλῶντες.  
 ἡματα δὲ τρία πάντα γόων· ἑτέρφω δέ μιν ἦδη  
 τάρχχον μεγαλωστί· συνεκτερέιζε δὲ λαὸς  
 αὐτῷ ὁμοῦ βασιλῇ Λύκῳ· παρὰ δ' ἄσπετα μῆλα  
 ἢ θέμις οἰχομένοισι, ταφήναι λαιμοτόμησαν. 840  
 καὶ δὴ τοι κέχνται τοῦδ' ἀνέρος ἐν χθονὶ κείνῃ  
 τύμβος· σῆμα δ' ἔπεστι καὶ ὀψιγόνοισιν ἰδέσθαι,  
 νηίου ἐκ κοτίνιο φάλαγξ· θαλέθει δέ τε φύλλοις  
 ἄκρης τυτθὸν ἔνερθ' Ἀχερουσίδος. εἰ δέ με καὶ τὸ  
 χρειῶ ἀπηλεγέως Μουσέων ὑπο γηρύσασθαι,  
 τόνδε πολιissoῦχον διεπέφραδε Βοιωτοῖσιν  
 Νισαίοισι τε Φοῖβος ἐπιρρίδην ἰλάεσθαι,  
 ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγε φάλαγγα παλαιγενέος κοτίνιο

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nymphs of the marsh dreaded, and no man knew it ; but all alone he was feeding in the wide fen. But the son of Abas was passing along the raised banks of the river, and the boar from some unseen lair leapt out of the reed-bed, and charging gashed his thigh and severed in twain the sinews and the bone. And with a sharp cry the hero fell to the ground ; and as he was struck his comrades flocked together with answering cry. And quickly Peleus with his hunting spear aimed at the murderous boar as he fled back into the fen ; and again he turned and charged ; but Idas wounded him, and with a roar he fell impaled upon the sharp spear. And the boar they left on the ground just as he had fallen there ; but Idmon, now at the last gasp, his comrades bore to the ship in sorrow of heart, and he died in his comrades' arms.

And here they stayed from taking thought for their voyaging and abode in grief for the burial of their dead friend. And for three whole days they lamented ; and on the next they buried him with full honours, and the people and King Lycus himself took part in the funeral rites ; and, as is the due of the departed, they slaughtered countless sheep at his tomb. And so a barrow to this hero was raised in that land, and there stands a token for men of later days to see, the trunk of a wild olive tree, such as ships are built of ; and it flourishes with its green leaves a little below the Acherusian headland. And if at the bidding of the Muses I must tell this tale outright, Phoebus strictly commanded the Boeotians and Nisaeans to worship him as guardian of their city, and to build their city round the trunk of the ancient wild olive ; but they,

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instead of the god-fearing Aeolid Idmon, at this day honour Agamemnor.

Who was the next that died? For then a second time the heroes heaped up a barrow for a comrade dead. For still are to be seen two monuments of those heroes. The tale goes that Tiphys son of Hagnias died; nor was it his destiny thereafter to sail any further. But him there on the spot a short sickness laid to rest far from his native land, when the company had paid due honours to the dead son of Abas. And at the cruel woe they were seized with unbearable grief. For when with due honours they had buried him also hard by the seer, they cast themselves down in helplessness on the sea-shore silently, closely wrapped up, and took no thought for meat or drink; and their spirit drooped in grief, for all hope of return was gone. And in their sorrow they would have stayed from going further had not Hera kindled exceeding courage in Ancaeus, whom near the waters of Imbrusus Astypalaea bore to Poseidon; for especially was he skilled in steering and eagerly did he address Peleus:

"Son of Aeacus, is it well for us to give up our toils and linger on in a strange land? Not so much for my prowess in war did Jason take me with him in quest of the fleece, far from Parthenia, as for my knowledge of ships. Wherefore, I pray, let there be no fear for the ship. And so there are here other men of skill, of whom none will harm our voyaging, whomsoever we set at the helm. But quickly tell forth all this and boldly urge them to call to mind their task."

Thus he spake; and Peleus' soul was stirred with gladness, and straightway he spake in the midst of

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all: "My friends, why do we thus cherish a bootless grief like this? For those two have perished by the fate they have met with; but among our host are steersmen yet, and many a one. Wherefore let us not delay our attempt, but rouse yourselves to the work and cast away your griefs."

And him in reply Aeson's son addressed with helpless words: "Son of Aeacus, where are these steersmen of thine? For those whom we once deemed to be men of skill, they even more than I are bowed with vexation of heart. Wherefore I forbode an evil doom for us even as for the dead, if it shall be our lot neither to reach the city of fell Aeetes, nor ever again to pass beyond the clashing rocks to the land of Hellas, but a wretched fate will enshroud us here ingloriously till we grow old for naught."

Thus he spake, but Ancaeus quickly undertook to guide the swift ship; for he was stirred by the impulse of the goddess. And after him Erginus and Nauplius and Euphemus started up, eager to steer. But the others held them back, and many of his comrades granted it to Ancaeus.

So on the twelfth day they went aboard at dawn, for a strong breeze of westerly wind was blowing. And quickly with the oars they passed out through the river Acheron and, trusting to the wind, shook out their sails, and with canvas spread far and wide they were cleaving their passage through the waves in fair weather. And soon they passed the outfall of the river Callichorus, where, as the tale goes, the Nysean son of Zeus, when he had left the tribes of the Indians and came to dwell at Thebes, held revels and arrayed dances in front of a cave, wherein he passed unsmiling sacred nights, from which time



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the neighbours call the river by the name of Callichorus<sup>1</sup> and the cave Aulion.<sup>2</sup>

Next they beheld the barrow of Sthenelus, Actor's son, who on his way back from the valorous war against the Amazons—for he had been the comrade of Heracles—was struck by an arrow and died there upon the sea-beach. And for a time they went no further, for Persephone herself sent forth the spirit of Actor's son which craved with many tears to behold men like himself, even for a moment. And mounting on the edge of the barrow he gazed upon the ship, such as he was when he went to war; and round his head a fair helm with four peaks gleamed with its blood-red crest. And again he entered the vast gloom; and they looked and marvelled; and Mopsus, son of Ampycus, with word of prophecy urged them to land and propitiate him with libations. Quickly they drew in sail and threw out hawsers, and on the strand paid honour to the tomb of Sthenelus, and poured out drink offerings to him and sacrificed sheep as victims. And besides the drink offerings they built an altar to Apollo, saviour of ships, and burnt thigh bones; and Orpheus dedicated his lyre; whence the place has the name of Lyra.

And straightway they went aboard as the wind blew strong; and they drew the sail down, and made it taut to both sheets; then Argo was borne over the sea swiftly, even as a hawk soaring high through the air commits to the breeze its outspread wings and is borne on swiftly, nor swerves in its flight, poising in the clear sky with quiet pinions. And lo, they passed by the stream of Parthenius as it flows into the sea, a

<sup>1</sup> i.e. river of fair dances,

<sup>2</sup> i.e. the bedchamber.

πρηνυτάτου ποταμοῦ, παρεμέτρεον, ᾧ ἐνὶ κούρη  
 Λητωίς, ἄγρηθεν ὅτ' οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβαίῃη,  
 δν δέμας ἱμερτοῖσιν ἀναψύχει ὑδάτεσσιν.  
 νυκτὶ δ' ἔπειτ' ἄλληκτον ἐπιπροτέρωσσε θεόντες  
 Σήσαμον αἰπεινούς τε παρεξενέοντ' Ἐρυθίνους,  
 Κρωβίαλον, Κρῶμνάν τε καὶ ὑλήεντα Κύτωρον.  
 ἐνθεν δ' αὐτε Κάραμβιν ἄμ' ἡελίοιο βολῇσιν  
 γνάμψαντες παρὰ πουλὺν ἔπειτ' ἤλαυνον ἐρετμοῖς  
 Λίγυαλὸν πρόπαν ἡμαρ ὁμῶς καὶ ἐπ' ἡματι νύκτα.

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Λυτίκα δ' Ἀσσυρίης ἐπέβαν χθονός, ἐνθα  
 Σινώπην,  
 θυγατέρ' Ἀσωποῖο, καθίσσατο, καὶ οἱ ὅπασσεν  
 παρθενίην Ζεὺς αὐτός, ὑποσχεσίησι δολωθεῖς.  
 δὴ γὰρ ὁ μὲν φιλότητος ἐέλδετο· νεῦσε δ' ὄγ' αὐτῇ  
 δωσέμεναι, ὃ κεν ἦσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.  
 ἡ δέ ἐ παρθενίην ᾗτήσατο κερδοσύνησιν.  
 ὥς δέ καὶ Ἀπόλλωνα παρήπαφεν εὐνηθῆναι  
 ἰέμενον, ποταμόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Ἄλυν· οὐδὲ μὲν  
 ἀνδρῶν

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τῆνγε τις ἱμερτῆσιν ἐν ἀγκοίνῃσι δάμασσεν.  
 ἐνθα δὲ Τρικκαίοιο ἀγαυοῦ Δηϊμάχοιο  
 υἱες, Δηϊλέων τε καὶ Αὐτόλυκος Φλογίος τε  
 τῆμος ἔθ', Ἡρακλῆος ἀποπλαγχθέντες, ἔναιον  
 οἱ ῥα τόθ', ὥς ἐνόησαν ἀριστήων στόλον ἀνδρῶν,  
 σφᾶς αὐτοὺς νημερτὲς ἐπέφραδον ἀντιάσαντες·  
 οὐδ' ἔτι μιμνάζειν θέλον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐνὶ νηί,  
 ἀργέσταο παρᾶσσον ἐπιπνεύοντος, ἔβησαν.  
 τοῖσι δ' ὁμοῦ μετέπειτα θοῇ πεφορημένοι αὔρη  
 λείπον Ἄλυν ποταμόν, λείπον δ' ἀγχίρροον Ἴριν,  
 ἥδὲ καὶ Ἀσσυρίης πρόχυσιν χθονός· ἡματι δ' αὐτῷ  
 γνάμψαν Ἀμαζονίδων ἕκαθεν λιμενήοχον ἄκρην.

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most gentle river, where the maid, daughter of Leto, when she mounts to heaven after the chase, cools her limbs in its much-desired waters. Then they sped onward in the night without ceasing, and passed Sesamus and lofty Erythini, Crobialus, Cromna and woody Cytorus. Next they swept round Carambis at the rising of the sun, and plied the oars past endless Aegialus, all day and on through the night.

And straightway they landed on the Assyrian shore where Zeus himself gave a home to Sinope, daughter of Asopus, and granted her virginity, beguiled by his own promises. For he longed for her love, and he promised to grant her whatever her heart's desire might be. And she in her craftiness asked of him virginity. And in like manner she deceived Apollo too who longed to wed her, and besides them the river Halys, and no man ever subdued her in love's embrace. And there the sons of noble Deimachus of Tricca were still dwelling, Deileon, Autolycus and Phlogius, since the day when they wandered far away from Hercules; and they, when they marked the array of chieftains, went to meet them and declared in truth who they were; and they wished to remain there no longer, but as soon as Argestes<sup>1</sup> blew went on ship-board. And so with them, borne along by the swift breeze, the heroes left behind the river Halys, and left behind Iris that flows hard by, and the delta-land of Assyria; and on the same day they rounded the distant headland of the Amazons that guards their harbour.

<sup>1</sup> The north-west wind.

Ἐνθα ποτὲ προμολοῦσαν Ἀρητιάδα Μελανίππην  
 ἥρως Ἡρακλῆς ἐλοχῆσατο, καὶ οἱ ἄποινα  
 Ἰππολύτη ζωστήρα παναίολον ἐγγυάλιξεν  
 ἀμφὶ κασιγνήτης· ὁ δ' αἰπήμονα πέμψεν ὀπίσσω.  
 τῆς οἷγ' ἐν κόλπῳ, προχοαῖς ἐπὶ θερμώδοντος, 970  
 κέλσαν, ἐπεὶ καὶ πόντος ὀρίνετο νισσομένοισιν.  
 τῷ δ' οὔτις ποταμῶν ἐναλέγκιος, οὐδὲ ῥέεθρα  
 τόσσ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἴησι παρέξ ἔθεν ἀνδιχα βάλλων.  
 τετράκις εἰς ἑκατὸν δεύοιτό κεν, εἴ τις ἕκαστα  
 πεμπάζοι· μία δ' οἷα ἐτήτυμος ἔπλετο πηγῇ.  
 ἢ μὲν τ' ἐξ ὀρέων κατανίσσεται ἠπειρόνδε  
 ὑψηλῶν, ἃ τε φασὶν Ἀμαζόνια κλείεσθαι.  
 ἐνθεν δ' αἰπυτέρην ἐπικίδναται ἐνδοθι γαῖαν  
 ἀντικρύν· τῷ καὶ οἱ ἐπίστροφοί εἰσι κέλευθοι·  
 αἰεὶ δ' ἄλλυδις ἄλλη, ὅπῃ κύρσειε μάλιστα 980  
 ἠπείρου χθαμαλῆς, εἰλίσσεται· ἢ μὲν ἄπωθεν,  
 ἢ δὲ πέλας· πολλές δὲ πόροι νώνυμοι ἔασιν,  
 ὅπῃ ὑπεξαφύονται· ὁ δ' ἀμφαδὸν ἄμμιγα παύροις  
 Πόντον ἐς Ἄξεινον κυρτὴν ὑπερεύγεται ἄχυν.<sup>1</sup>  
 καὶ νῦ κε δηθύνοντες Ἀμαζονίδεσσιν ἔμιξαν  
 ὑσμίνην, καὶ δ' οὔ κεν ἀναιμωτί γ' ἐρίδηναν—  
 οὐ γὰρ Ἀμαζονίδες μάλ' ἐπήτιδες, οὐδὲ θέμιστας  
 τίουσσαι πεδίον Δοιάντιον ἀμφενέμοντο·  
 ἀλλ' ὕβρις στονόεσσα καὶ Ἄρεος ἔργα μεμήλει·  
 δὴ γὰρ καὶ γενεὴν ἔσαν Ἄρεος Ἀρμονίης τε 990  
 νύμφης, ἣτ' Ἀρηϊ φιλοπτολέμους τέκε κούρας,  
 ἄλσεος Ἀκμονίοιο κατὰ πτύχας εὐνηθείσα—  
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ἐκ Διόθεν πνοιαί πάλιν ἀργεστῷ  
 ἤλυθον· οἱ δ' ἀνέμῳ περιηγέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν,  
 ἐνθα θεμισκύρειαι Ἀμαζόνες ὠπλίζοντο.

<sup>1</sup> ἄχυν· Rubricen ; ἄχυν MSS.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

Here once when Melanippe, daughter of Ares, had gone forth, the hero Heracles caught her by ambuscade and Hippolyte gave him her glistening girdle as her sister's ransom, and he sent away his captive unharmed. In the bay of this headland, at the outfall of Thermodon, they ran ashore, for the sea was rough for their voyage. No river is like this, and none sends forth from itself such mighty streams over the land. If a man should count every one he would lack but four of a hundred, but the real spring is only one. This flows down to the plain from lofty mountains, which, men say, are called the Amazonian mountains. Thence it spreads inland over a hilly country straight forward; wherefrom its streams go winding on, and they roll on, this way and that ever more, wherever best they can reach the lower ground, one at a distance and another near at hand; and many streams are swallowed up in the sand and are without a name; but, mingled with a few, the main stream openly bursts with its arching crest of foam into the Inhospitable Pontus. And they would have tarried there and have closed in battle with the Amazons, and would have fought not without bloodshed—for the Amazons were not gentle foes and regarded not justice, those dwellers on the Doeantian plain; but grievous insolence and the works of Ares were all their care; for by race they were the daughters of Ares and the nymph Harmonia, who bare to Ares war-loving maids, wedded to him in the glens of the Aemonian wood—had not the breezes of Argestes come again from Zeus; and with the wind they left the rounded beach, where the Themiscyreian Amazons

οὐ γὰρ ὁμηγερέες μίαν ἄμ πόλιν, ἀλλ' ἀνὰ γαῖαν  
 κεκριμέναι κατὰ φύλα διέτριχα ναιετάασκον  
 νόσφι μὲν αἰδ' αὐταί, τῇσιν τότε κοιρανέεσκεν  
 Ἴππολύτη, νόσφι δὲ Λυκάστιαι ἀμφενέμοντο,  
 νόσφι δ' ἀκοντοβόλοι Χαδῆσiai. ἤματι δ' ἄλλῃ 1000  
 νυκτί τ' ἐπιπλομένη Χαλύβων παρὰ γαῖαν ἴκοντο.

Τοῖσι μὲν οὔτε βοῶν ἄροτος μέλει, οὔτε τις ἄλλη  
 φυταλιῇ καρποῖο μελίφρονος· οὐδὲ μὲν οἷγε  
 ποιμνας ἐρσήεντι νομῷ ἐνι ποιμαίνουσιν.  
 ἀλλὰ σιδηροφόρον στυφελὴν χθόνα γατομέοντες  
 ὄνον ἀμείβονται βιοτήσιον, οὐδέ ποτέ σφιν  
 ἥως ἀντέλλει καμάτων ἄτερ, ἀλλὰ κελαινῇ  
 λιγνύι καὶ καπνῷ κίματος βαρὺν ὀτλεύουσιν.

Τοὺς δὲ μετ' αὐτίκ' ἔπειτα Γενηταίου Διὸς ἄκρην  
 γνᾶμψαντες σώοντο παρὲξ Τιβαρηνίδα γαῖαν. 1010  
 ἐνθ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ κε τέκωνται ὑπ' ἀνδράσι τέκνα  
 γυναῖκες,

αὐτοὶ μὲν στενάχουσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσι πεσόντες,  
 κρύατα δησάμενοι· ταὶ δ' εὖ κομέουσιν ἐδωδῇ  
 ἀνέρας, ἡδὲ λοετρὰ λεχώια τοῖσι πένονται.

Ἴρὸν δ' αὐτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὄρος καὶ γαῖαν ἄμειβον,  
 ἢ ἐνι Μοσσύνοικοι ἀν' οὔρεα ναιετάουσιν  
 μόσσυνας, καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἐνθεν ἔασιν.  
 ἀλλοίῃ δὲ δίκη καὶ θέσμις τοῖσι τέτυκται.  
 ὅσσα μὲν ἀμφαδίην ῥέζειν θέμις, ἢ ἐνὶ δήμῳ,  
 ἢ ἀγορῇ, τάδε πάντα δόμοις ἐνι μηχανύονται· 1020  
 ὅσσα δ' ἐνὶ μεγάροις πεπονήμεθα, κεῖνα θύραζε  
 ἀψευγέως μέσσησι ἐνὶ ῥέζουσιν ἀγνιαῖς.  
 οὐδ' εὐνῆς αἰδῶς ἐπιδήμιος, ἀλλὰ, σῦες ὥς  
 φορβαῖδες, οὐδ' ἡβαιὸν ἀτυζόμενοι παρεόντας,  
 μίσγονται χαμαΐδς ξυνῇ φιλότῃ γυναικῶν.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

earth they lie with the women. Their king sits in the loftiest hut and dispenses upright judgments to the multitude, poor wretch ! For if haply he err at all in his decrees, for that day they keep him shut up in starvation.

They passed them by and cleft their way with oars over against the island of Ares all day long ; for at dusk the light breeze left them. At last they spied above them, hurtling through the air, one of the birds of Ares which haunt that isle. It shook its wings down over the ship as she sped on and sent against her a keen feather, and it fell on the left shoulder of goodly Oileus, and he dropped his oar from his hands at the sudden blow, and his comrades marvelled at the sight of the winged bolt. And Eribotes from his seat hard by drew out the feather, and bound up the wound when he had loosed the strap hanging from his own sword-sheath ; and besides the first, another bird appeared swooping down ; but the hero Clytus, son of Eurytus—for he bent his curved bow, and sped a swift arrow against the bird—struck it, and it whirled round and fell close to the ship. And to them spake Amphidamas, son of Alcus :

“The island of Ares is near us ; you know it yourselves now that ye have seen these birds. But little will arrows avail us, I trow, for landing. But let us contrive some other device to help us, if ye intend to land, bearing in mind the injunction of Phineus. For not even could Heracles, when he came to Arcadia, drive away with bow and arrow the birds that swam on the Stymphalian lake. I saw it myself. But he shook in his hand a rattle of bronze and made a loud clatter as he stood upon a lofty

τηλοῦ, ἀτυξηλῶ ὑπὸ δείματι κεκληγγυῖαι.  
 τῷ καὶ νῦν τοίην τιν' ἐπιφραζώμεθα μῆτιν·  
 αὐτὸς δ' ἂν τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπιφρασθεὶς ἐνέποιμι.  
 ἀνθέμενοι κεφαλῇσιν ἀερσιλόφους τρυφαλείας, 1060  
 ἡμίσεες μὲν ἐρέσσει' ἀμοιβαδῖς, ἡμίσεες δὲ  
 δούραςί τε ξυστοῖσι καὶ ἀσπίσιν ἄρσετε νῆα.  
 αὐτὰρ πασσυδίῃ περιώσιον ὄρνυτ' αὐτὴν  
 αἰθρόοι, ὅφρα κολῶν ἀηθείῃ φοβέωνται  
 νεύοντάς τε λόφους καὶ ἐπήγορα δούραθ' ὑπερθεν.  
 εἰ δέ κεν αὐτὴν νῆσον ἰκώμεθα, δὴ τότε' ἔπειτα  
 σὺν κελάδῳ σακέεσσι πελώριον ὄρσετε δοῦπον.  
 Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἐπίρροθος ἦνδανε  
 μῆτις.

ἀμφὶ δὲ χαλκείας κόρυθας κεφαλῇσιν ἔθεντο  
 δεινὸν λαμπομένας, ἐπὶ δὲ λόφοι ἐσσεύοντο 1070  
 φοινίκεοι. καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἀμοιβήδην ἐλάσσκον·  
 τοὶ δ' αὖτ' ἐγχείησι καὶ ἀσπίσι νῆ' ἐκάλυνψαν.  
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τις κεράμῳ κατερέψεται ἐρκίον ἀνὴρ,  
 δώματος ἀγλαίην τε καὶ ὑετοῦ ἔμμεναι ἄλκαρ,  
 ἄλλω δ' ἔμπεδον ἄλλος ὁμῶς ἐπαμοιβὸς ἄρηρεν·  
 ὡς οὔγ' ἀσπίσι νῆα συναρτύναντες ἔρεψαν.  
 οἷη δὲ κλαγγὴ δῆον πέλει ἐξ ὁμάδοιο  
 ἀνδρῶν κινυμένων, ὅπότε ξυνίωσι φύλαγγες,  
 τοίη ἄρ' ὑψόθι νηὸς ἐς ἡέρα κίδνατ' αὐτή.  
 οὐδέ τιν' οἰωνῶν ἔτ' ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλ' ὅτε νήσω 1080  
 χρίμψαντες σακέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, αὐτίκ' ἄρ' οὔγε  
 μυρίοι ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα πεφυζότες ἠερέθοντο.  
 ὥς δ' ὅπότε Κροῖίδης πυκινὴν ἐφέηκε χάλαζαν  
 ἐκ νεφέων ἀνά τ' ἄστνυ καὶ οἰκία, τοὶ δ' ὑπὸ τοῖσιν  
 ἐνναέται κόναβον τεγέων ὑπερ εἰσαίοντες  
 ἦνται ἀκὴν, ἐπεὶ οὐ σφε κατέλλαβε χείματος ὥρη  
 ἀπροφάτως, ἀλλὰ πρὶν ἐκαρτύναντο μέλαθρον·



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

peak, and the birds fled far off, screeching in bewildered fear. Wherefore now too let us contrive some such device, and I myself will speak, having pondered the matter beforehand. Set on your heads your helmets of lofty crest, then half row by turns, and half fence the ship about with polished spears and shields. Then all together raise a mighty shout so that the birds may be scared by the unwonted din, the nodding crests, and the uplifted spears on high. And if we reach the island itself, then make mighty noise with the clashing of shields."

Thus he spake, and the helpful device pleased all. And on their heads they placed helmets of bronze, gleaming terribly, and the blood-red crests were tossing. And half of them rowed in turn, and the rest covered the ship with spears and shields. And as when a man roofs over a house with tiles, to be an ornament of his home and a defence against rain, and one tile fits firmly into another, each after each; so they roofed over the ship with their shields, locking them together. And as a din arises from a warrior-host of men sweeping on, when lines of battle meet, such a shout rose upward from the ship into the air. Now they saw none of the birds yet, but when they touched the island and clashed upon their shields, then the birds in countless numbers rose in flight hither and thither. And as when the son of Cronos sends from the clouds a dense hail-storm on city and houses, and the people who dwell beneath hear the din above the roof and sit quietly, since the stormy season has not come upon them unawares, but they have first made strong their roofs; so the birds sent against the heroes a thick

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

the waves hurled the sons of Phrixus, together with their massy beam, upon the beach of the island, in the murky night; and the floods of rain from Zeus ceased at sunrise, and soon the two bands drew near and met each other, and Argus spoke first:

"We beseech you, by Zeus the Beholder, whoever ye are, to be kindly and to help us in our need. For fierce tempests, falling on the sea, have shattered all the timbers of the crazy ship in which we were cleaving our path on business bent. Wherefore we entreat you, if haply ye will listen, to grant us just a covering for our bodies, and to pity and succour men in misfortune, your equals in age. Oh, reverence suppliants and strangers for Zeus' sake, the god of strangers and suppliants. To Zeus belong both suppliants and strangers; and his eye, methinks, beholdeth even us."

And in reply the son of Aeson prudently questioned him, deeming that the prophecies of Phineus were being fulfilled: "All these things will we straightway grant you with right good will. But come tell me truly in what country ye dwell and what business bids you sail across the sea, and tell me your own glorious names and lineage."

And him Argus, helpless in his evil plight, addressed: "That one Phrixus an Aeolid reached Aea from Hellas you yourselves have clearly heard ere this, I trow; Phrixus, who came to the city of Aetes, bestriding a ram, which Hermes had made all gold; and the fleece ye may see even now. The ram, at its own prompting, he then sacrificed to

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

Φυξίῳ ἐκ πάντων Κρονίδῃ Διί. καὶ μιν ἔδεκτο  
 Αἰήτης μεγάρῳ, κούρην τέ οἱ ἐγγυάλιξεν  
 Χαλκιόπην ἀνάεδνον εὐφροσύνησι νόοιο.  
 τῶν ἐξ ἀμφοτέρων εἰμὲν γένος. ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη 1150  
 γηραιὸς θάνε Φρίξος ἐν Αἰήταο δόμοισιν·  
 ἡμεῖς δ' αὐτίκα πατρὸς ἐφετμάων ἀλέγοντες  
 νεύμεθ' ἐς Ὀρχομενὸν κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκητι.  
 εἰ δὲ καὶ οὖνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις δεδαῆσθαι,  
 τῷδε Κυτίσσωρος πέλει οὖνομα, τῷδέ τε Φρόντις,  
 τῷδὲ Μέλας· ἐμὲ δ' αὐτὸν ἐπικλείοιτέ κεν Ἄργον.  
 Ὡς φάτ'· ἀριστῆες δὲ συνηβολίῃ κεχάροντο,  
 καὶ σφεας ἀμφίεπον περιθαμβέες. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων  
 ἐξαυτίς κατὰ μοῖραν ἀμείψατο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·  
 Ὅτ' ἄρα δὴ γνωτοὶ πατρώιοι ἄμμιν ἔοντες 1160  
 λίσσεσθ' εὐμενέοντας ἐπαρκέσσαι κακότητα.  
 Κρηθεὺς γάρ ῥ' Ἀθάμας τε κασίνγητοι γεγάασιν.  
 Κρηθῆος δ' υἱὸν ἐγὼ σὺν τοισίδ' ἐταίροις  
 Ἑλλάδος ἐξ αὐτῆς νέομ' ἐς πόλιν Αἰήταο.  
 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν καὶ ἐσαυτίς ἐνίψομεν ἀλλήλοισιν.  
 νῦν δ' ἔσσεσθε πάροιθεν. ὑπ' ἐννεσίῃσι δ' οἴω  
 ἀθανάτων ἐς χεῖρας ἐμὰς χατέοντας ἰκέσθαι.  
 Ἡ ῥα, καὶ ἐκ νηὸς δῶκέ σφισιν εἴματα δῦναι.  
 πασσυδίῃ δ' ἡπειτα κίον μετὰ νηὸν Ἄρης,  
 μῆλ' ἱερευσόμενοι περὶ δ' ἐσχάρῃ ἐστήσαντο 1170  
 ἐσσυμένως, ἦτ' ἐκτὸς ἀνηρεφέος πέλε νηοῦ  
 στιάων· εἴσω δὲ μέγας λίθος ἡρήρειστο  
 ἱερός, ᾧ ποτε πᾶσαι Ἀμαζόνες εὐχετόωντο.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

Zeus, son of Cronos, above all, the god of fugitives. And him did Aeetes receive in his palace, and with gladness of heart gave him his daughter Chalciope in marriage without gifts of wooing.<sup>1</sup> From those two are we sprung. But Phrixus died at last, an aged man, in the home of Aeetes; and we, giving heed to our father's behests, are journeying to Orchomenus to take the possessions of Athamas. And if thou dost desire to learn our names, this is Cytissorus, this Phrontis, and this Melas, and me ye may call Argus."

Thus he spake, and the chieftains rejoiced at the meeting, and tended them, much marvelling. And Jason again in turn replied, as was fitting, with these words:

"Surely ye are our kinsmen on my father's side, and ye pray that with kindly hearts we succour your evil plight. For Cretheus and Athamas were brothers. I am the grandson of Cretheus, and with these comrades here I am journeying from that same Hellas to the city of Aeetes. But of these things we will converse hereafter. And do ye first put clothing upon you. By heaven's devising, I ween, have ye come to my hands in your sore need."

He spake, and out of the ship gave them raiment to put on. Then all together they went to the temple of Ares to offer sacrifice of sheep; and in haste they stood round the altar, which was outside the roofless temple, an altar built of pebbles; within a black stone stood fixed, a sacred thing, to which of yore the Amazons all used to pray. Nor was it

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* without exacting gifts from the bridegroom. So in the *Iliad* (ix. 146) Agamemnon offers Achilles any of his three daughters *ἀνέδωκεν*.

ἀλλ' αἰνῶς ὀλοῇσιν ἀπηνεῖρσιν ἄρῃεν  
 Αἰήτης· τῷ καὶ περιδείδια ναυτίλλεσθαι.  
 στεῦται δ' Ἑλίου γόνος ἔμμεναι· ἀμφὶ δὲ Κόλχων  
 ἔθνεα ναιετάουσιν ἀπείρονα· καὶ δέ κεν Ἄρει  
 σμερδαλέην ἐνοπὴν μέγα τε σθένος ἰσοφαρίζοι.  
 οὐ μὰν οὐδ' ἀπάνευθεν ἐλεῖν δέρος Αἰήταο  
 ῥηίδιον, τοίός μιν ὄφιν περί τ' ἀμφὶ τ' ἔρυται  
 ἀθάνατος καὶ ἄνπνος, ὃν αὐτὴ Γαῖ' ἀνέφυσεν  
 Καυκάσου ἐν κνημοῖσι, Τυφαιονίῃ ὅθι πέτρη,  
 ἔνθα Τυφαιονά φασι Διὸς Κρονίδαο κεραυνῷ  
 βλήμενον, ὅππότε οἱ στιβαρὰς ἐπορέξατο χεῖρας,  
 θερμὸν ἀπὸ κρατὸς στάξαι φόνον· ἵκετο δ' αὐτῶς  
 οὔρεα καὶ πεδῖον Νυσηῖον, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ  
 κεῖται ὑποβρύχιος Σερβωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης·

1210

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· πολέεσσι δ' ἐπὶ χλόος εἶλε παρειὰς  
 αὐτίκα, τοῖον ἀεθλον ὅτ' ἔκλυον. αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς  
 θαρσαλέους ἐπέεσσιν ἀμείψατο, φώνησέν τε·

Μῆδ' οὕτως, ἡθεῖε, λίην δειδίσσεο θυμῷ.  
 οὔτε γὰρ ὧδ' ἀλκὴν ἐπιδενόμεθ', ὥστε χερεῖους  
 ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο σὺν ἔντεσι πειρηθῆναι·  
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡμέας οἶω ἐπισταμένους πολέμοιο  
 κεῖσε μολεῖν, μακάρων σχεδὸν αἵματος ἐκγεγαῶτας.  
 τῷ εἰ μὴ φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσει,  
 οὐ οἱ χραισμήσειν ἐπιέλπομαι ἔθνεα Κόλχων·

1220

Ὡς οἷγ' ἀλλήλοισιν ἀμοιβαδὸν ἡγορόωντο,  
 μέσφ' αὖτις δόρποιο κορεσσάμενοι κατέδαρθεν.  
 ἦρι δ' ἀνεγρομένοισιν ἐγκραῆς ἄεν οὔρος·  
 ἰστία δ' ἦειραν, τὰ δ' ὑπαὶ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο  
 τένετο· ῥίμφα δὲ νῆσον ἀποπροέλειπον Ἄρης.

1230

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

And at nightfall they came to the island of Philyra, where Cronos, son of Uranus, what time in Olympus he reigned over the Titans, and Zeus was yet being nurtured in a Cretan cave by the Curetes of Ida, lay beside Philyra, when he had deceived Rhea; and the goddess found them in the midst of their dalliance; and Cronos leapt up from the couch with a rush in the form of a steed with flowing mane, but Ocean's daughter, Philyra, in shame left the spot and those haunts, and came to the long Pelasgian ridges, where by her union with the transfigured deity she brought forth huge Cheiron, half like a horse, half like a god.

Thence they sailed on, past the Macrones and the far-stretching land of the Becheiri and the overweening Sapeires, and after them the Byzeres; for ever forward they clave their way, quickly borne by the gentle breeze. And lo, as they sped on, a deep gulf of the sea was opened, and lo, the steep crags of the Caucasian mountains rose up, where, with his limbs bound upon the hard rocks by galling fetters of bronze, Prometheus fed with his liver an eagle that ever rushed back to its prey. High above the ship at even they saw it flying with a loud whirr, near the clouds; and yet it shook all the sails with the fanning of those huge wings. For it had not the form of a bird of the air but kept poising its long wing-feathers like polished oars. And not long after they heard the bitter cry of Prometheus as his liver was being torn away; and the air rang with his screams until they marked the ravening eagle rushing back from the mountain on the self-same track. And at night, by the skill of Argus, they reached broad-flowing Phasis, and the utmost bourne of the sea.



### BOOK III



ἄνδιχα πορφύρουσαι ἐνὶ σφίσιν· αὐτίκα δ' Ἦρη  
τοῖον μητιώσα παροιτέρη ἔκφατο μῦθον  
'Δεῦρ' ἴομεν μετὰ Κύπριν· ἐπιπλόμεναι δέ μιν  
ἄμφω

παιδὶ ἐφ' εἰπεῖν ὁτρύνομεν, αἶ κε πίθηται  
κούρην Λιήτεω πολυφάρμακον οἷσι βέλεσσιν  
θέλξαι ὀιστεύσας ἐπ' Ἰήσони. τὸν δ' ἂν ὀίω  
κείνης ἐννεσίησιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἀνάξειν.'

'Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· πυκινὴ δὲ συνεύαδε μῆτις Ἀθήνη, 30  
καὶ μιν ἔπειτ' ἐξαυτίς ἀμείβετο μειλιχίοισιν·  
'Ἦρη, νῆίδα μὲν με πατήρ τέκε τοιοῦτο βολάων,  
οὐδέ τινα χρεῖ᾽ ἑλκκτήριον οἶδα πόθοιο.  
εἰ δέ σοι αὐτῇ μῦθος ἐφاندάνει, ἦ τ' ἂν ἔγωγε  
ἐσποίμην· σὺ δέ κεν φαίης ἔπος ἀντιώσα.'

'Ἢ, καὶ ἀναίξασαι ἐπὶ μέγα δῶμα νέοντο  
Κύπριδος, ὃ ρά τέ οἱ δεῖμεν πόσις ἀμφιγυήεις,  
ὅππότε μιν τὰ πρῶτα παρὰ Διὸς ἦγεν ἄκοιτιν.  
ἔρκεα δ' εἰσελθοῦσαι ὑπ' αἰθούσῃ θαλάμοιο  
ἔσταν, ἵν' ἐντύνεσκε θεὰ λέχος Ἥφαίστοιο. 40  
ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἐς χαλκεῶνα καὶ ἄκμονας ἤρι βεβήκει,  
νῆσοιο πλαγκτῆς εὐρὺν μυχόν, ᾧ ἔνι πάντα  
δαίδαλα χάλκευεν ῥιπῇ πυρός· ἦ δ' ἄρα μούνη  
ἦστο δόμῳ δινωτὸν ἀνὰ θρόνον, ἅντα θυράων.  
λευκοῖσιν δ' ἐκάτερθε κόμας ἐπιειμένη ὥμοις  
κόσμει χρυσεῖη διὰ κερκίδι, μέλλε δὲ μακροῖς  
πλέξασθαι πλοκάμους· τὰς δὲ προπάροιθεν ἰδοῦσα  
ἔσχεθεν, εἶσω τέ σφ' ἐκάλει, καὶ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὄρτο,  
εἰσέ τ' ἐνὶ κλισμοῖσιν· ἀτὰρ μετέπειτα καὶ αὐτὴ  
ἵκανε, ἀψήκτους δὲ χεροῖν ἀνεδήσατο χαίτας. 50  
τοῖα δὲ μειδιώσα προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίοισιν·

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

straightway Hera was the first to speak her thought: "Come, let us go to Cypris; let both of us accost her and urge her to bid her son (if only he will obey) speed his shaft at the daughter of Aeetes, the enchantress, and charm her with love for Jason. And I deem that by her device he will bring back the fleece to Hellas."

Thus she spake, and the prudent plan pleased Athena, and she addressed her in reply with gentle words:

"Hera, my father begat me to be a stranger to the darts of love, nor do I know any charm to work desire. But if the word pleases thee, surely I will follow; but thou must speak when we meet her."

So she said, and starting forth they came to the mighty palace of Cypris, which her husband, the halt-footed god, had built for her when first he brought her from Zeus to be his wife. And entering the court they stood beneath the gallery of the chamber where the goddess prepared the couch of Hephaestus. But he had gone early to his forge and anvils to a broad cavern in a floating island where with the blast of flame he wrought all manner of curious work; and she all alone was sitting within, on an inlaid seat facing the door. And her white shoulders on each side were covered with the mantle of her hair and she was parting it with a golden comb and about to braid up the long tresses; but when she saw the goddesses before her, she stayed and called them within, and rose from her seat and placed them on couches. Then she herself sat down, and with her hands gathered up the locks still uncombed. And smiling she addressed them with crafty words:

‘Ἡθεΐαι, τίς δεῦρο νόος χρειώ τε κομίζει  
 δηναίᾳς αὐτως; τί δ’ ἰκάνετον, οὔτι πάρος γε  
 λίην φοιτίζουσαι, ἐπεὶ περίεστε θεάων;

Τὴν δ’ Ἥρη τοίοισιν ἀμειβομένη προσέειπεν·  
 ‘Κερτομέεις· νῶϊν δὲ κέαρ συνορίνεται ἄτη.

ἦδη γὰρ ποταμῷ ἐνὶ Φάσιδι νῆα κατίσχει  
 Αἰσονίδης, ἡδ’ ἄλλοι ὅσοι μετὰ κῶας ἐπονται.

τῶν ἦτοι πάντων μὲν, ἐπεὶ πέλας ἔργον ὄρωρεν,  
 δείδιμεν ἐκπάγλως, περὶ δ’ Αἰσονίδαο μάλιστα.

τὸν μὲν ἐγών, εἰ καὶ περ ἐς Ἄϊδα ναυτίλληται  
 λυσόμενος χαλκέων Ἰξίονα νειόθι δεσμῶν,  
 ῥύσομαι, ὅσσον ἐμοῖσιν ἐνὶ σθένος ἔπλετο γυίοις,  
 ὄφρα μὴ ἐγγελάσῃ Πελίδης κακὸν οἶτον ἀλύξας,  
 ὅς μ’ ὑπερηνορέῃ θυεων ἀγέραστον ἔθηκεν.

καὶ δ’ ἄλλως ἔτι καὶ πρὶν ἐμοὶ μέγα φίλατ’ Ἰήσων  
 ἐξότ’ ἐπὶ προχοῇσιν ἄλις πλήθοντος Ἀναύρου

ἄνδρῶν εὐνομίας πειρωμένη ἀντεβόλησεν  
 θήρης ἐξανιών· νιφετῷ δ’ ἐπαλύνετο πάντα

οὔρεα καὶ σκοπιαὶ περιμήκεες, οἱ δὲ κατ’ αὐτῶν  
 χεῖμαρροι καναχηδὰ κυλινδόμενοι φορέοντο.

γρηὶ δέ μ’ εἰσαμένην ὀλοφύρατο, καὶ μ’ ἀναείρας  
 αὐτὸς ἐοῖς ὥμοισι διέκ προαλὲς φέρεν ὕδωρ.

τῷ νῦ μοι ἄλληκτον περιτίεται· οὐδέ κε λῶβην  
 τίσειεν Πελίδης, εἰ μὴ σύ γε νόστον ὀπιάσεις.

Ὡς ἡὔδα· Κύπριν δ’ ἐνεοστασίῃ λάβε μύθων.  
 ἄζετο δ’ ἀντομένην Ἥρην ἔθεν εἰσορόωσα,

καὶ μιν ἔπειτ’ ἰγανοῖσι προσέννεπεν ἦγ’ ἐπέεσσιν·  
 ‘Πότνα θεά, μὴ τοί τι κακώτερον ἄλλο πέλοιτο

Κύπριδος, εἰ δὴ σείο λιλαιομένης ἀθερίζω  
 ἢ ἔπος ἡέ τι ἔργον, ὃ κεν χέρες αἴγῃ κάμοιεν  
 ἠπεδανί· καὶ μὴ τις ἀμοιβαίῃ χάρις ἔστω.’

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

"Good friends, what intent, what occasion brings you here after so long? Why have ye come, not too frequent visitors before, chief among goddesses that ye are?"

And to her Hera replied: "Thou dost mock us, but our hearts are stirred with calamity. For already on the river Phasis the son of Aeson moors his ship, he and his comrades in quest of the fleece. For all their sakes we fear terribly (for the task is nigh at hand) but most for Aeson's son. Him will I deliver, though he sail even to Hades to free Ixion below from his brazen chains, as far as strength lies in my limbs, so that Pelias may not mock at having escaped an evil doom—Pelias who left me unhonoured with sacrifice. Moreover Jason was greatly loved by me before, ever since at the mouth of Anaurus in flood, as I was making trial of men's righteousness, he met me on his return from the chase; and all the mountains and long ridged peaks were sprinkled with snow, and from them the torrents rolling down were rushing with a roar. And he took pity on me in the likeness of an old crone, and raising me on his shoulders himself bore me through the headlong tide. So he is honoured by me unceasingly; nor will Pelias pay the penalty of his outrage, unless thou wilt grant Jason his return."

Thus she spake, and speechlessness seized Cypris. And beholding Hera supplicating her she felt awe, and then addressed her with friendly words: "Dread goddess, may no viler thing than Cypris ever be found, if I disregard thy eager desire in word or deed, whatever my weak arms can effect; and let there be no favour in return."

Ὦς ἔφαθ'· Ἥρη δ' αὖτις ἐπιφραδέως ἀγόρευσεν·  
 'Οὔτι βίης χατέουσαι ἰκάνομεν, οὔδ' ἐτι χειρῶν.  
 ἀλλ' αὐτῶς ἀκέουσα τεῦ ἐπικέκλεο παιδί  
 παρθένον Αἰήτεω θέλξαι πόθῳ Λίσονίδαο.  
 εἰ γάρ οἱ κείνη συμφράσσεται εὐμενέουσα,  
 ῥηιδίως μιν ἐλόντα δέρος χρύσειον ὁίω  
 νοστήσειν ἐς Ἰωλκόν, ἐπεὶ δολόεσσα τέτυκται.'

Ὦς ἄρ' ἔφη· Κύπρις δὲ μετ' ἀμφοτέρησιν ἔειπεν· 90  
 'Ἥρη, Ἀθηναίη τε, πίθοιτό κεν ὕμμι μάλιστα,  
 ἢ ἐμοί. ὕμειων γὰρ ἀναιδήτων περ ἐόντι  
 τυτθή γ' αἰδῶς ἔσσειτ' ἐν ὄμμασιν· αὐτὰρ ἐμεῖο  
 οὐκ ὄθεται, μάλα δ' αἰὲν ἐριδμαίνων ἀθερίζει.  
 καὶ δὴ οἱ μενέηνα, περισχομένη κακότητι,  
 αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισι δυσηχέας ἄξαι ὀιστοὺς  
 ἀμφαδίην. τοῖον γὰρ ἐπηπείλησε χαλεφθεῖς,  
 εἰ μὴ τηλόθι χεῖρας, ἕως ἔτι θυμὸν ἐρύκει,  
 ἔξω ἐμάς, μετέπειτά γ' ἀτεμβοίμην ἐοῖ αὐτῇ.'

Ὦς φάτο· μείδῃσαν δὲ θεαί, καὶ ἐσέδρακον ἄντην 100  
 ἀλλήλαις. ἢ δ' αὖτις ἀκηχεμένη προσέειπεν·  
 'Ἄλλοις ἄλγεα τὰμὰ γέλωος πέλει· οὔδ' ἐτί με χρὴ  
 μυθεῖσθαι πάντεσσιν· ἅλις εἰδυῖα καὶ αὐτή.  
 νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ὕμμι φίλον τόδε δὴ πέλει ἀμφοτέρησιν,  
 πειρήσω, καὶ μιν μειλίζομαι, οὔδ' ἀπιθήσει.'

Ὦς φάτο· τὴν δ' Ἥρη ῥαδινῆς ἐπεμάσσατο  
 χειρός,  
 ἦκα δὲ μειδιῶσα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·  
 'Οὕτω νῦν, Κυθήρεια, τόδε χρέος, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,  
 ἔρξον ἄφαρ· καὶ μὴ τι χαλέπτεο, μηδ' ἐρίδαινε  
 χωομένη σῶ παιδί· μεταλλήξει γὰρ ὀπίσσω.'

Ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἔλλιπε θῶκον· ἐφωμάρτησε δ' Ἀθήνη·  
 ἐκ δ' ἴσαν ἄμφω ταίγε παλίσσυτοι. ἢ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ  
 βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν Οὐλύμποιο κατὰ πτύχας, εἰ μιν ἐφεύροι.

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

She spake, and Hera again addressed her with prudence: "It is not in need of might or of strength that we have come. But just quietly bid thy boy charm Aectes' daughter with love for Jason. For if she will aid him with her kindly counsel, easily do I think he will win the fleece of gold and return to Iolcus, for she is full of wiles."

Thus she spake, and Cypris addressed them both: "Hera and Athena, he will obey you rather than me. For unabashed though he is, there will be some slight shame in his eyes before you; but he has no respect for me, but ever slights me in contentious mood. And, overborne by his naughtiness, I purpose to break his ill-sounding arrows and his bow in his very sight. For in his anger he has threatened that if I shall not keep my hands off him while he still masters his temper, I shall have cause to blame myself thereafter."

So she spake, and the goddesses smiled and looked at each other. But Cypris again spoke, vexed at heart: "To others my sorrows are a jest; nor ought I to tell them to all; I know them too well myself. But now, since this pleases you both, I will make the attempt and coax him, and he will not say me nay."

Thus she spake, and Hera took her slender hand and gently smiling, replied: "Perform this task, Cytherea, straightway, as thou sayest; and be not angry or contend with thy boy; he will cease hereafter to vex thee."

She spake, and left her seat, and Athena accompanied her and they went forth both hastening back. And Cypris went on her way through the glens of Olympus to find her boy. And she found him apart,

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

in the blooming orchard of Zeus, not alone, but with him Ganymedes, whom once Zeus had set to dwell among the immortal gods, being enamoured of his beauty. And they were playing for golden dice, as like-minded boys are wont to do. And already greedy Eros was holding the palm of his left hand quite full of them under his breast, standing upright; and on the bloom of his cheeks a sweet blush was glowing. But the other sat crouching hard by, silent and downcast, and he had two dice left which he threw one after the other, and was angered by the loud laughter of Eros. And lo, losing them straightway with the former, he went off empty-handed, helpless, and noticed not the approach of Cypris. And she stood before her boy, and laying her hand on his lips, addressed him :

"Why dost thou smile in triumph, unutterable rogue? Hast thou cheated him thus, and unjustly overcome the innocent child? Come, be ready to perform for me the task I will tell thee of, and I will give thee Zeus' all-beauteous plaything—the one which his dear nurse Adrasteia made for him, while he still lived a child, with childish ways, in the Idaean cave—a well-rounded ball; no better toy wilt thou get from the hands of Hephaestus. All of gold are its zones, and round each double seams run in a circle; but the stitches are hidden, and a dark blue spiral overlays them all. But if thou shouldst cast it with thy hands, lo, like a star, it sends a flaming track through the sky. This I will give thee; and do thou strike with thy shaft and charm the daughter of Aeetes with love for Jason; and let there be no loitering. For then my thanks would be the slighter."

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Thus she spake, and welcome were her words to the listening boy. And he threw down all his toys, and eagerly seizing her robe on this side and on that, clung to the goddess. And he implored her to bestow the gift at once; but she, facing him with kindly words, touched his cheeks, kissed him and drew him to her, and replied with a smile:

"Be witness now thy dear head and mine, that surely I will give thee the gift and deceive thee not, if thou wilt strike with thy shaft Aetes' daughter."

She spoke, and he gathered up his dice, and having well counted them all threw them into his mother's gleaming lap. And straightway with golden baldric he slung round him his quiver from where it leant against a tree-trunk, and took up his curved bow. And he fared forth through the fruitful orchard of the palace of Zeus. Then he passed through the gates of Olympus high in air; hence is a downward path from heaven; and the twin poles rear aloft steep mountain tops—the highest crests of earth, where the risen sun grows ruddy with his first beams. And beneath him there appeared now the life-giving earth and cities of men and sacred streams of rivers, and now in turn mountain peaks and the ocean all around, as he swept through the vast expanse of air.

Now the heroes apart in ambush, in a back-water of the river, were met in council, sitting on the benches of their ship. And Aeson's son himself was speaking among them; and they were listening silently in their places sitting row upon row: "My friends, what pleases myself that will I say out; it is for you to bring about its fulfilment. For in



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

common is our task, and common to all alike is the right of speech; and he who in silence withholds his thought and his counsel, let him know that it is he alone that bereaves this band of its home-return. Do ye others rest here in the ship quietly with your arms; but I will go to the palace of Acetes, taking with me the sons of Phrixus and two comrades as well. And when I meet him I will first make trial with words to see if he will be willing to give up the golden fleece for friendship's sake or not, but trusting to his might will set at nought our quest. For so, learning his frowardness first from himself, we will consider whether we shall meet him in battle, or some other plan shall avail us, if we refrain from the war-cry. And let us not merely by force, before putting words to the test, deprive him of his own possession. But first it is better to go to him and win his favour by speech. Oftentimes, I ween, does speech accomplish at need what prowess could hardly carry through, smoothing the path in manner befitting. And he once welcomed noble Phrixus, a fugitive from his stepmother's wiles and the sacrifice prepared by his father. For all men everywhere, even the most shameless, reverence the ordinance of Zeus, god of strangers, and regard it."

Thus he spake, and the youths approved the words of Aeson's son with one accord, nor was there one to counsel otherwise. And then he summoned to go with him the sons of Phrixus, and Telamon and Augeias; and himself took Hermes' wand; and at once they passed forth from the ship beyond the reeds and the water to dry land, towards the rising ground of the plain. The plain, I wis, is called

Κιρκαῖον τόδε που κικλήσκεται· ἐνθα δὲ πολλαὶ 200  
ἐξείης πρόμαλοι τε καὶ ἱτέαι ἐκπεφύασιν,  
τῶν καὶ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτων νέκυες σειρῇσι κρέμανται  
δέσμιοι. εἰσέτι νῦν γὰρ ἄγος Κόλχοισιν ὄρωρεν  
ἀνέρας οἰχομένους πυρὶ καίεμεν· οὐδ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ  
ἔστι θέμις στείλαντας ὑπερθ' ἐπὶ σῆμα χέεσθαι,  
ἀλλ' ἐν ἀδεψήτοισι κατειλύσαντε βοείαις  
δενδρέων ἐξάπτειν ἐκὰς ἄστεος. ἥρι δ' ἴσῃν  
καὶ χθὼν ἔμμορεν αἴσαν, ἐπεὶ χθονὶ ταρχύνουσιν  
θηλυτέρας· ἡ γάρ τε δίκη θεσμοῖο τέτυκται.

Τοῖσι δὲ νισσόμενοις Ἥρῃ φίλα μητιόωσα 210  
ἡέρα πουλὺν ἐφῆκε δι' ἄστεος, ὄφρα λάθοιεν  
Κόλχων μυρίον ἔθνος ἐς Λιήταο κιόντες.  
ὦκα δ' ὅτ' ἐκ πεδίοιο πόλιν καὶ δώμαθ' ἴκοντο  
Λιήτεω, τότε δ' αὖτις ἀπεσκέδασεν νέφος Ἥρῃ.  
ἔσταν δ' ἐν προμολῇσι τεθηπότες ἔρκε' ἀνακτος  
εὐρείας τε πύλας καὶ κίονας, οἱ περὶ τοίχους  
ἐξείης ἀνεχον· θρυγκὸς δ' ἐφύπερθε δόμοιο  
λαίνεος χαλκήσιν ἐπὶ γλυφίδεσσιν ἀρήρει.  
εὐκηλοὶ δ' ὑπὲρ οὐδὸν ἔπειτ' ἔβαν. ἄγχι δὲ τοῖο 220  
ἡμερίδες χλοεροῖσι καταστεφές πετάλοισιν  
ὑψοῦ ἀειρόμεναι μέγ' ἐθήλεον. αἱ δ' ὑπὸ τῇσιν  
ἀέναοι κρῆναι πίσυρες ῥέον, ἃς ἐλάχνηεν  
Ἥφαιστος. καὶ ῥ' ἡ μὲν ἀναβλύσκε γάλακτι,  
ἡ δ' οἶνω, τριτάτῃ δὲ θυώδεϊ νῆεν ἀλοιφῇ·  
ἡ δ' ἄρ' ὕδωρ προρέεσκε, τὸ μὲν ποθὶ δνομένησιν  
θέρμετο Πληιάδεσσιν, ἀμοιβηδὶς δ' ἀνιούσαις  
κρυστάλλω ἱκελὸν κοίλης ἀνεκίηκε πέτρης.  
τοῖ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μεγάροισι Κυταιέος Λιήταο  
τεχνήεις Ἥφαιστος ἐμήσατο θέσκελα ἔργα.  
καὶ οἱ χαλκόποδας ταύρους κάμε, χάλκεα δὲ σφεων 230

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Circe's; and here in line grow many willows and osiers, on whose topmost branches hang corpses bound with cords. For even now it is an abomination with the Colchians to burn dead men with fire; nor is it lawful to place them in the earth and raise a mound above, but to wrap them in untanned oxhides and suspend them from trees far from the city. And so earth has an equal portion with air, seeing that they bury the women; for that is the custom of their land.

And as they went Hera with friendly thought spread a thick mist through the city, that they might fare to the palace of Aetes unseen by the countless hosts of the Colchians. But soon when from the plain they came to the city and Aetes' palace, then again Hera dispersed the mist. And they stood at the entrance, marvelling at the king's courts and the wide gates and columns which rose in ordered lines round the walls; and high up on the palace a coping of stone rested on brazen triglyphs. And silently they crossed the threshold. And close by garden vines covered with green foliage were in full bloom, lifted high in air. And beneath them ran four fountains, ever-flowing, which Hephaestus had delved out. One was gushing with milk, one with wine, while the third flowed with fragrant oil; and the fourth ran with water, which grew warm at the setting of the Pleiads, and in turn at their rising bubbled forth from the hollow rock, cold as ice. Such then were the wondrous works that the craftsman-god Hephaestus had fashioned in the palace of Cytaean Aetes. And he wrought for him bulls with feet of bronze, and their mouths were of bronze, and from them they breathed

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

"After all then, ye were not destined to leave me in your heedlessness and to wander far; but fate has turned you back. Poor wretch that I am! What a yearning for Hellas from some woeful madness seized you at the behest of your father Phrixus. Bitter sorrows for my heart did he ordain when dying. And why should ye go to the city of Orchomenus, whoever this Orchomenus is, for the sake of Athamas' wealth, leaving your mother alone to bear her grief?"

Such were her words; and Aetes came forth last of all and Eidyia herself came, the queen of Aetes, on hearing the voice of Chalciopé; and straightway all the court was filled with a throng. Some of the thralls were busied with a mighty bull, others with the axe were cleaving dry billets, and others heating with fire water for the baths; nor was there one who relaxed his toil, serving the king.

Meantime Eros passed unseen through the grey mist, causing confusion, as when against grazing heifers rises the gadfly, which oxherds call the breese. And quickly beneath the lintel in the porch he strung his bow and took from the quiver an arrow unshot before, messenger of pain. And with swift feet unmarked he passed the threshold and keenly glanced around; and gliding close by Aeson's son he laid the arrow-notch on the cord in the centre, and drawing wide apart with both hands he shot at Medea; and speechless amazement seized her soul. But the god himself flashed back again from the high-roofed hall, laughing loud; and the bolt burnt deep down in the maiden's heart, like a flame; and ever she kept darting bright glances straight up at Aeson's son, and within her breast her

στηθέων ἐκ πυκινὰ καμάτῳ φρένες, οὐδέ τι ν' ἄλλην  
 μνήστιν ἔχεν, γλυκερῇ δὲ κατείβετο θυμὸν ἀνίη. 200  
 ὥς δὲ γυνὴ μαλερῷ περὶ κάρφεια χεύατο δαλῷ  
 χερνήτις, τῇπερ ταλασῆια ἔργα μέμηλεν,  
 ὅς κεν ὑπάρόφιον νύκτωρ σέλας ἐντύναιτο,  
 ἄγχι μάλ' ἐγρομένη· τὸ δ' ἀθέσφατον ἐξ ὀλίγοιο  
 δαλοῦ ἀνεγρόμενον σὺν κάρφεια πάντ' ἀμαθύνει  
 τοῖος ὑπὸ κραδίῳ εἰλυμένος αἶθετο λάθρῃ  
 οὐλος Ἑρώς· ἀπαλὰς δὲ μετετρωπᾶτο παρειὰς  
 ἐς χλόον, ἄλλοτ' ἔρευθος, ἀκηδείησι νόοιο.

Δμῶες δ' ὁππότε δὴ σφιν ἐπαρτέα θῆκαν ἐδωδὴν,  
 αὐτοὶ τε λιανοῖσιν ἐφαιδρύναντο λοετροῖς, 300  
 ἀσπασίως δόρπῳ τε ποτῇτί τε θυμὸν ἄρεσσαν.  
 ἐκ δὲ τοῦ Αἰήτης σφετέρης ἐρέεινε θυγατρὸς  
 νύμφας τοίοισι παρηγορέων ἐπέεσσιν·

Ἐπαιδὸς ἐμῆς κοῦροι Φρίξοιό τε, τὸν περὶ πάντων  
 ξείνων ἡμετέροισιν ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔτισα,  
 πῶς Αἰάνδε νέεσθε παλίσσυτοι; ἦέ τις ἄτη  
 σωομένους μεσσηγὺς ἐνέκλασεν; οὐ μὲν ἐμεῖο  
 πείθεσθε προφέροντος ἀπείρονα μέτρα κελεύθου.  
 ἦδειν γάρ ποτε πατὴρ ἐν ἄρμασιν Ἡελίοιο  
 δινεύσας, ὅτ' ἐμεῖο κασιγνήτην ἐκόμιζεν 310  
 Κίρκην ἐσπερίης εἴσω χθονός, ἐκ δ' ἐκόμεσθα  
 ἀκτὴν ἠπείρου Τυρσηνίδος, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ  
 ναϊετάει, μάλα πολλὸν ἀπόπροθι Κολχίδος αἰης.  
 ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἂ δ' ἐν ποσὶν ὕμιν ὄρωρεν,  
 εἴπατ' ἀριφραδέως, ἦδ' οἵτινες οἷδ' ἐφέπονται  
 ἀνέρες, ὅππῃ τε γλαφυρῆς ἐκ νηὸς ἔβητε.

Τοιά μιν ἐξερέοντα κασιγνήτων προπάροιθεν  
 Ἄργος ὑποδδείσας ἀμφὶ στόλῳ Αἰσονίδαο  
 μελιχίως προσέειπεν, ἐπεὶ προγενέστερος ἦεν·

'Αιήτη, κείνην μὲν ἄφαρ διέχευαν ἄελλαι  
 ζαχρηεῖς· αὐτοὺς δ' ὑπὸ δούρασι πεπτηῶτας  
 νήσου Ἐνναλίοιο ποτὶ ξερὸν ἔκβαλε κῦμα  
 λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί· θεὸς δέ τις ἄμμ' ἐσάωσεν.  
 οὐδὲ γὰρ αἶ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐρημαίην κατὰ νήσον  
 ἠϋλίζοντ' ὄρνιθες Ἀρήμαι, οὐδ' ἔτι κείνας  
 εὔρομεν. ἀλλ' οὔγ' ἄνδρες ἀπήλασαν, ἔξαποβάντες  
 νηὸς ἐῆς προτέρφ' ἐνὶ ἡματι· καὶ σφ' ἀπέρυκεν  
 ἡμέας οἰκτεῖρων Ζηνὸς νόος, ἥε τις αἴσα,  
 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ καὶ βρώσιν ἄλις καὶ εἷματ' ἔδωκαν,  
 οὔνομά τε Φρίξοιο περικλεὲς εἰσαίοντες  
 ἠδ' αὐτοῖο σέθεν· μετὰ γὰρ τεὸν ἄστν νέονται.  
 χρεῖώ δ' ἦν ἐθέλης ἐξιδόμεναι, οὐ σ' ἐπικεύσω.  
 τόνδε τις ἰέμενος πάτρης ἀπάνευθεν ἐλάσσαι  
 καὶ κτεάνων βασιλεὺς περιώσιον, οὔνεκεν ἀλκῇ  
 σφωιτέρῃ πάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν Αἰολίδῃσιν,  
 πέμπει δεῦρο νέεσθαι ἀμήχανον· οὐδ' ὑπαλύξειν  
 στεῦνται ἀμειλίκτοιο Διὸς θυμαλγέα μῆνιν  
 καὶ χόλον, οὐδ' ἄτλητον ἄγος Φρίξοιό τε ποινὰς  
 Αἰολιδέων γενεήν, πρὶν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἰκέσθαι.  
 νῆα δ' Ἀθηναίῃ Παλλὰς κάμεν, οὐ μάλ' αὖ τοίην,  
 οἶα περ Κόλχοισι μετ' ἀνδράσι νῆες ἔασιν,  
 τάων αἰνοτάτης ἐπεκύρσαμεν. ἤλιθα γάρ μιν  
 λάβρον ὕδωρ πνοιή τε διέτμαγεν· ἡ δ' ἐνὶ γόμφοις  
 ἴσχεται, ἦν καὶ πᾶσαι ἐπιβρίσωσιν ἄελλαι.  
 ἴσον δ' ἐξ ἀνέμοιο θέει καὶ ὅτ' ἀνέρες αὐτοὶ  
 νωλεμέως χεῖρεσσιν ἐπισπέρχωσιν ἐρετμοῖς.  
 τῇ δ' ἐναγαιράμενος Παναχαΐδος εἴ τι φέριστον  
 ἠρώων, τεὸν ἄστν μετήλυθε, πόλλ' ἐπαληθεὶς  
 ἄστεα καὶ πελάγη στνυγερῆς ἁλός, εἴ οἱ ὀπάσσαις.

320

330

340

αὐτῷ δ' ὥς κεν ἄδῃ, τῶς ἔσσεται· οὐ γὰρ ἰκάνει 350  
 χερσὶ βιησόμενος· μέμονεν δέ τοι ἄξια τίσειν  
 δωτίνης, αἶων ἐμέθεν μέγα δυσμενέοντας  
 Σαυρομάτας, τοὺς σοῖσιν ὑπὸ σκῆπτροισι δα-  
 μάσσει.

εἰ δέ καὶ οὐνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις γενεήν τε  
 ἴδμεναι, οἵτινές εἰσιν, ἕκαστά γε μυθησαίμην.  
 τόνδε μέν, οἷό περ οὔνεκ' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος ὧλλοι  
 ἀγερθεν,

κλείουσ' Αἴσονος υἱὸν Ἰήсона Κρηθεῖδαο.  
 εἰ δ' αὐτοῦ Κρηθῆος ἐτήτυμόν ἐστι γενέθλης,  
 οὕτω κεν γνωτὸς πατρώιος ἄμμι πέλοιτο.  
 ἄμφω γὰρ Κρηθεὺς Ἀθάμας τ' ἔσαν Αἰόλου υἱες· 360  
 Φρίξος δ' αὐτ' Ἀθάμαντος ἦν πάις Αἰολίδαο.  
 τόνδε δ' ἄρ', Ἥελίου γόνον ἔμμεναι εἴ τιν' ἀκούεις,  
 δέρκεαι Αὐγείην· Τελαμῶν δ' ὄγε, κυδίστοιο  
 Λιακοῦ ἐκγεγαώς· Ζεὺς δ' Αἰακὸν αὐτὸς ἔτικτεν.  
 ὥς δέ καὶ ὧλλοι πάντες, ὅσοι συνέπονται ἐταῖροι,  
 ἀθανάτων υἱές τε καὶ νίωνοι γεγάασιν·

Τοῖα παρέννεπεν Ἄργος· ἀναξ δ' ἐπεχῶσατο  
 μύθοις

εἰσαΐων· ὑψοῦ δέ χόλῳ φρένες ἠερέθοντο.  
 φῆ δ' ἐπαλαστήσας· μενέαινε δὲ παισὶ μάλιστα  
 Χαλκιόπης· τῶν γάρ σφε μετέλθμεν οὔνεκ' ἐώλπει· 370  
 ἐκ δέ οἱ ὄμματ' ἔλαμψεν ὑπ' ὀφρύσιν ἱεμένοιο·

Ὅκ ἄφαρ ὀφθαλμῶν μοι ἀπόπροθι, λωβη-  
 τήρες,

νεῖσθ' αὐτοῖσι δόλοισι παλίσσυντο ἔκτοθι γαίης,  
 πρίν τινα ληνγαλέον τε δέρος καὶ Φρίξον ιδέσθαι;  
 αὐτίχ' ὁμαρτήσαντες ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος, οὐκ ἐπὶ κῶας,  
 σκῆπτρα δὲ καὶ τιμὴν βασιλιῆδα δεῦρο νέεσθε.  
 εἰ δέ κε μὴ προπάρουθεν ἐμῆς ἤψασθε τραπέζης,

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

thou wilt grant him the fleece. But as thou dost please, so shall it be, for he cometh not to use force, but is eager to pay thee a recompense for the gift. He has heard from me of thy bitter foes the Sauromatae, and he will subdue them to thy sway. And if thou desirest to know their names and lineage I will tell thee all. This man on whose account the rest were gathered from Hellas, they call Jason, son of Aeson, whom Cretheus begat. And if in truth he is of the stock of Cretheus himself, thus he would be our kinsman on the father's side. For Cretheus and Athamas were both sons of Aeolus; and Phrixus was the son of Athamas, son of Aeolus. And here, if thou hast heard at all of the seed of Helios, thou dost behold Augeias; and this is Telamon sprung from famous Aeacus; and Zeus himself begat Acacus. And so all the rest, all the comrades that follow him, are the sons or grandsons of the immortals."

Such was the tale of Argus; but the king at his words was filled with rage as he heard; and his heart was lifted high in wrath. And he spake in heavy displeasure; and was angered most of all with the son of Chalciope; for he deemed that on their account the strangers had come; and in his fury his eyes flashed forth beneath his brows:

"Begone from my sight, felons, straightway, ye and your tricks, from the land, ere someone see a fleece and a Phrixus to his sorrow. Banded together with your friends from Hellas, not for the fleece, but to seize my sceptre and royal power have ye come hither. Had ye not first tasted of my table, surely



ἦ τ' ἂν ἀπὸ γλώσσας τε ταμὼν καὶ χεῖρε κεύσας  
ἀμφοτέρᾳς, οἷοισιν ἐπιπροέηκα πόδεσσιν,  
ὥς κεν ἐρητύοισθε καὶ ὕστερον ὀρμηθῆναι·  
οἶα δὲ καὶ μακάρεσσιν ἐπεψεύσασθε θεοῖσιν.

380

Φῆ ῥα χαλεψάμενος· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰακίδαο  
νειόθεν οἰδαίνεσκον· ἐέλδeto δ' ἐνδοθι θυμὸς  
ἀντιβίην ὅλοον φάσθαι ἔπος· ἀλλ' ἀπέρυκεν  
Αἰσυνίδης· πρὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἀμείψατο μελιχίοισιν·

‘Αιήτη, σχέο μοι τῷδε στόλῳ. οὔτι γὰρ αὐτως  
ἄστυ τεδὼν καὶ δώμαθ' ἱκάνομεν, ὥς πον ἔολπας,  
οὐδὲ μὲν ἰέμενοι. τίς δ' ἂν τόσον οἶδμα περήσαι  
τλαίῃ ἐκὼν ὀθνεῖον ἐπὶ κτέρας; ἀλλά με δαίμων  
καὶ κρνερὴ βασιλῆος ἀτασθάλου ὤρσεν ἐφετμή.

390

δὸς χάριν ἀντομένοισιν· σέθεν δ' ἐγὼ Ἑλλάδι πάσῃ  
θεσπεσίην οἴσω κληιδόνα· καὶ δέ τοι ἤδη  
πρόφρονές εἰμεν ἄρῃ θοὴν ἀποτίσαι ἀμοιβήν,  
εἴτ' οὖν Σαυρομάτας γε λιλαίεαι, εἴτε τιν' ἄλλον  
δῆμον σφωιτέροισιν ὑπὸ σκήπτροισι δαμάσσαι.

Ἴσκειν ὑποσσαιίνων ἀγανῇ ὀπί· τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς  
διχθαδίην πόρφυρεν ἐνὶ στήθεσσι μενοινήν,  
ἦ σφεας ὀρμηθεὶς αὐτοσχεδὼν ἐξεναρίζοι,  
ἦ ὄγε πειρήσαιτο βίης. τό οἱ εἶσατ' ἄρειον  
φραζομένῳ· καὶ δὴ μιν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν·

400

‘Ξεῖνε, τί κεν τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκέως ἀγορεύοις;  
εἰ γὰρ ἐτήτυμόν ἐστε θεῶν γένος, ἥ καὶ ἄλλως  
οὐδὲν ἐμείο χέρηες ἐπ' ὀθνείοισιν ἔβητε,  
δώσω τοι χρύσειον ἄγειν δέρος, αἶ κ' ἐθέλησθα,  
πειρηθείς. ἐσθλοῖς γὰρ ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν οὔτι μεγαίρω,  
ὥς αὐτοὶ μυθεῖσθε τὸν Ἑλλάδι κοιρανέοντα.

πείρα δέ τοι μένεός τε καὶ ἀλκῆς ἔσσειτ' ἄεθλος,  
 τὸν ῥ' αὐτὸς περίειμι χεροῖν ὁλοὸν περ ἔοντα.  
 δοιῶ μοι πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμονται  
 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωντες· 410  
 τοὺς ἐλάω ζεύξας στυφελὴν κατὰ νειὸν Ἀρης  
 τετράγυον, τὴν αἶψα ταμῶν ἐπὶ τέλσον ἀρότρῳ  
 οὐ σπόρον ὀλκοῖσιν Δηοῦς ἐνιβάλλομαι ἀκτὴν,  
 ἀλλ' ὄφιος δεινοῖο μεταλδήσκοντας ὀδόντας  
 ἀνδράσι τευχιστῆσι δέμας· τοὺς δ' αὖθι δαίζων  
 κείρω ἐμῷ ὑπὸ δουρὶ περισταδὸν ἀντιόωντας.  
 ἥριος ζεύγνυμι βόας, καὶ δείελον ὥρην  
 παύομαι ἀμήτοιο. σύ δ', εἰ τάδε τοῖα τελέσσεις,  
 αὐτῆμαρ τόδε κῶας ἀποίσεις εἰς βασιλῆος·  
 πρὶν δέ κεν οὐ δοίην, μηδ' ἔλπεο. δὴ γὰρ ἀεικὲς 420  
 ἄνδρ' ἀγαθὸν γεγαῶτα κακωτέρῳ ἀνέρι εἶξαι.

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ σῆγα ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματα  
 πῆξας

ἵστ' αὐτῶς ἀφθογγος, ἀμηχανέων κακότητι.  
 βουλὴν δ' ἀμφὶ πολὺν στρώφα χρόνον, οὐδέ πη  
 εἶχεν

θαρσαλέως ὑποδέχθαι, ἐπεὶ μέγα φαίνεται ἔργον·  
 ὠψὲ δ' ἀμειβόμενος προσελέξατο κερδαλέοισιν·

Ἀλήτη, μίλα τοί με δίκη περίπολλόν ἐέργεις.  
 τῷ καὶ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄεθλον ὑπερφίαλόν περ ἔοντα  
 τλήσομαι, εἰ καὶ μοι θανέειν μόρος. οὐ γὰρ ἔτ'  
 ἄλλο

ῥέγιον ἀνθρώποισι κακῆς ἐπικείμετ' ἀνάγκης, 430  
 ἢ με καὶ ἐνθάδε νεῖσθαι ἐπέχραεν ἐκ βασιλῆος.

Ὡς φάτ' ἀμηχανὴν βεβωλημένος· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε  
 σμερδαλέοις ἐπέεσσι προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλόντα·

“Ερχεο νῦν μεθ’ ὄμιλον, ἐπεὶ μέμονάς γε πόνοιο·  
εἰ δὲ σύγε ζυγὰ βουσὶν ὑποδδείσαις ἐπαίρει,  
ἢ καὶ οὐλομένου μεταχάσσεαι ἀμήτιοι,  
αὐτῷ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτό μοι, ὅφρα καὶ ἄλλος  
ἀνὴρ ἐρρίγησιν ἀρείονα φῶτα μετελθεῖν.”

Ἴσκεν ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ’ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρνυτ’

Ἰήσων,

Λιγείης Τελαμών τε παρασχεδὸν εἶπετο δ’ Ἄργος 440  
οἷος, ἐπεὶ μεσσηγὺς ἔτ’ αὐτόθι νεῦσε λιπέσθαι  
αὐτοκασιγνήτοις· οἱ δ’ ἦσαν<sup>1</sup> ἐκ μεγάρου.  
θεσπέσιον δ’ ἐν πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν Αἴσονος υἱὸς  
κάλλει καὶ χαρίτεσσιν· ἐπ’ αὐτῷ δ’ ὄμματα κούρη  
λοξὰ παρὰ λιπαρὴν σχομένη θηεῖτο καλύπτρην,  
κῆρ ἄχει σμύχουσα· νόος δέ οἱ ἦντ’ ὄνειρος  
ἐρπύζων πεπότητο μετ’ ἶχνια νισσομένοιο.  
καὶ ῥ’ οἱ μὲν ῥα δόμων ἐξήλυθον ἀσχαλῶντες.  
Χαλκιοπὴ δὲ χόλον πεφυλαγμένη Λιήταο 450  
καρπαλίμως θάλαμόνδε σὺν υἷασι νηυσὶ βεβήκει.  
αὐτῶς δ’ αὖ Μιθδεῖα μετέστιχε· πολλὰ δὲ θυμῷ  
ὤρμαιν’, ὅσσα τ’ Ἐρωτες ἐποτρύνουσι μέλεσθαι.  
προπρὸ δ’ ἄρ’ ὀφθαλμῶν ἔτι οἱ ἰνδάλλετο πάντα,  
αὐτός θ’ οἷός ἑην, οἷοισί τε φάρεσιν ἔστο,  
οἷά τ’ εἶφ’, ὥς θ’ ἔζετ’ ἐπὶ θρόνου, ὥς τε θύραζε  
ἦεν· οὐδέ τιν’ ἄλλον οἷσματο πορφύρουσα  
ἔμμεναι ἀνέρα τοῖον· ἐν οὔασι δ’ αἰὲν ὀρώρει  
αὐδὴ τε μῦθοί τε μελίφρονες, οὓς ἀγούρευσεν.  
τάρβει δ’ ἀμφ’ αὐτῷ, μή μιν βόες ἢ καὶ αὐτὸς  
Λιήτης φθίσκειν· ὀδύρετο δ’ ἠύτε πάμπαν 460  
ἦδη τεθνεῶτα, τέρεν δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειὰς  
δάκρυον αἰνοτάτω ἐλέω ῥέε κηδοσύνησιν·  
ἦκα δὲ μυρομένη λιγέως ἀνευεῖκατο μῦθον·

<sup>1</sup> ἦσαν Rzsch : ἦσαν MSS.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

"Why does this grief come upon me, poor wretch? Whether he be the best of heroes now about to perish, or the worst, let him go to his doom. Yet I would that he had escaped unharmed; yea, may this be so, revered goddess, daughter of Perses, may he avoid death and return home; but if it be his lot to be o'ermastered by the oxen, may he first learn this, that I at least do not rejoice in his cruel calamity."

Thus then was the maiden's heart racked by love-cares. But when the others had gone forth from the people and the city, along the path by which at the first they had come from the plain, then Argus addressed Jason with these words:

"Son of Aeson, thou wilt despise the counsel which I will tell thee, but, though in evil plight, it is not fitting to forbear from the trial. Ere now thou hast heard me tell of a maiden that uses sorcery under the guidance of Hecate, Perses' daughter. If we could win her aid there will be no dread, methinks, of thy defeat in the contest; but terribly do I fear that my mother will not take this task upon her. Nevertheless I will go back again to entreat her, for a common destruction overhangs us all."

He spake with goodwill, and Jason answered with these words: "Good friend, if this is good in thy sight, I say not nay. Go and move thy mother, beseeching her aid with prudent words; pitiful indeed is our hope when we have put our return in the keeping of women." So he spake, and quickly they reached the back-water. And their comrades joyfully questioned them, when they saw them close at hand; and to them spoke Aeson's son grieved at heart:

Ἦ φίλοι, Αἰήταο ἀπηνέος ἄμμι φίλον κῆρ  
 ἀντικρὺ κεχόλωται, ἕκαστα γὰρ οὐ νύ τι τέκμωρ  
 οὗτ' ἐμοί, οὔτε κεν ὕμμι διειρομένοισι πέλοιτο.  
 φῆ δὲ δύνω πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήμιον ἀμφινέμεσθαι  
 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωντας.  
 τετράγυον δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐφίετο νειὸν ἀρόσσαι·  
 δώσειν δ' ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων σπόρον, ὅς ῥ' ἀνίησιν  
 γηγενέας χαλκίοις σὺν τεύχεσιν· ἡματι δ' αὐτῷ  
 χρεῖῶ τούσγε δαίξαι. ὃ δὴ νύ οἱ—οὔτι γὰρ ἄλλο 500  
 βέλτερον ἦν φράσσασθαι—ἀπηλεγγέως ὑποέστην.

\*Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἀνήνυτος εἷσατ'  
 ἄεθλος,  
 δὴν δ' ἀνεφ καὶ ἀναυδοὶ ἐς ἀλλήλους ὀρόωντο,  
 ἄτη ἀμηχανίη τε κατηφές· ὃψέ δὲ Πηλεὺς  
 θαρσαλέως μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀριστήεσσιν ἔειπεν·  
 ὦ Ἦρη μητιάασθαι ὃ κ' ἔρξομεν. οὐ μὲν ἔολπα  
 βουλήs εἶναι ὄνειαρ, ὅσον τ' ἐπὶ κάρτει χειρῶν.  
 εἰ μὲν νυν τύνῃ ζεύξαι βόας Αἰήταο,  
 ἦ ῥως Αἰσονίδῃ, φρονέεις, μέμονάς τε πόνοιο,  
 ἦ τ' ἂν ὑποσχεσίην πεφυλαγμένος ἐντύναιο· 510  
 εἰ δ' οὐ τοι μάλα θυμὸς ἐῖς ἐπὶ πάγχυ πέποιθεν  
 ἡγορέῃ, μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐπείγῃ, μήτε τιν' ἄλλον  
 τῶνδ' ἀνδρῶν πάπταινε παρήμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε  
 σχήσομ', ἐπεὶ θάνατός γε τὸ κύντατον ἔσσεται  
 ἄλγος.

\*Ὡς ἔφατ' Αἰακίδης· Τελαμῶνι δὲ θυμὸς ὀρίνθη·  
 σπερχόμενος δ' ἀνόρουσε θοῶς· ἐπὶ δὲ τρίτος Ἴδας  
 ὦρτο μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ' υἷε<sup>1</sup> Τυνδαρείοιο·  
 σὺν δὲ καὶ Οἰνείδης ἐναρίθμιος αἰζηοῖσιν  
 ἀνδράσιν, οὐδέ περ ὅσσον ἐπανθιόωντας ἰούλους

<sup>1</sup> υἷε Köchly: υἷε MSS.

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

with such courage was his soul uplifted. But the others gave way to these in silence. And straightway Argus spake these words to those that longed for the contest:

"My friends, this indeed is left us at the last. But I deem that there will come to you some timely aid from my mother. Wherefore, eager though ye be, refrain and abide in your ship a little longer as before, for it is better to forbear than recklessly to choose an evil fate. There is a maiden, nurtured in the halls of Aetes, whom the goddess Hecate taught to handle magic herbs with exceeding skill—all that the land and flowing waters produce. With them is quenched the blast of unwearied flame, and at once she stays the course of rivers as they rush roaring on, and checks the stars and the paths of the sacred moon. Of her we bethought us as we came hither along the path from the palace, if haply my mother, her own sister, might persuade her to aid us in the venture. And if this is pleasing to you as well, surely on this very day will I return to the palace of Aetes to make trial; and perchance with some god's help shall I make the trial."

Thus he spake, and the gods in their goodwill gave them a sign. A trembling dove in her flight from a mighty hawk fell from on high, terrified, into the lap of Aeson's son, and the hawk fell impaled on the stern-ornament. And quickly Mopsus with prophetic words spake among them all:

"For you, friends, this sign has been wrought by the will of heaven; in no other way is it possible to interpret its meaning better, than to seek out the maiden and entreat her with manifold skill. And I think she will not reject our prayer, if in truth

εἰ ἐτεὸν Φινεύς γε θεῶ ἐνὶ Κύπριδι νόστον  
πέφραδεν ἔσσεσθαι. κείνης δ' ὄγε μείλιχος ὄρνις 550  
πότμον ὑπεξήλυξε· κέαρ δέ μοι ὥς ἐνὶ θυμῷ  
τόνδε κατ' οἰωνὸν προτιόσσεται, ὥς δὲ πέλοιτο.  
ἀλλὰ, φίλοι, Κυθήρειαν ἐπικλείοντες ἀμύνειν,  
ἤδη νῦν Ἀργοιο παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε.'

Ἴσκεν ἐπῆνησαν δὲ νέοι, Φινῆος ἐφετμὰς  
μνησάμενοι· μῦθος δ' Ἀφαρήμιος ἄνθορεν Ἴδας,  
δεῖν' ἐπαλαστήσας μεγάλη ὀπί, φώνησέν τε  
'Ὡ πόποι, ἦ ῥα γυναιξὶν ὁμόστολοι ἐνθάδ' ἔβημεν,  
οἱ Κύπριν καλέουσιν ἐπίρροθον ἄμμι πέλεσθαι,  
οὐκέτ' Ἐνναλίοιο μέγα σθένος; ἐς δὲ πελείας 560  
καὶ κίρκους λεύσσοντες ἐρητύεσθε ἀέθλων;  
ἔρρετε, μῆδ' ὕμιν πολεμῆμα ἔργα μέλοιτο,  
παρθενικὰς δὲ λιτῆσιν ἀνάλκιδας ἡπεροπεύειν.'

Ὡς ἡῦδα μεμαῶς· πολέες δ' ὁμάδησαν ἐταῖροι  
ἦκα μάλ', οὐδ' ἄρα τις οἱ ἐναντίον ἔκφατο μῦθον.  
χωόμενος δ' ὄγ' ἔπειτα καθέζετο· τοῖσι δ' Ἰήσων  
αὐτίκ' ἐποτρύνων τὸν ἐὸν νόον ὧδ' ἀγόρευεν  
'Ἄργος μὲν παρὰ νηὸς, ἐπεὶ τόδε πᾶσιν ἔαδεν,  
στελλέσθω· ἀτὰρ αὐτοὶ ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἐκ πιταμοῖο  
ἀμφαδὸν ἤδη πείσματ' ἀνάψομεν. ἦ γὰρ ἔοικεν 570  
μηκέτι δὴν κρύπτεσθαι ὑποπτήσσοντας αὐτήν.'

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἄφαρ προῖαλλε νέεσθαι  
καρπαλίμως ἐξαῦτις ἀνὰ πτόλιν· οἱ δ' ἐπὶ νηὸς  
εὐναίας ἐρύσαντες ἐφετμαῖς Λίσονίδας  
τυτθὸν ὑπέξ ἔλεος χέρσῳ ἐπέκελσαν ἐρετμοῖς.

Αὐτίκα δ' Αἰήτης ἀγορὴν ποιήσατο Κόλχων  
νόσφιν εἰοῖο δόμον, τόθι περ καὶ πρόσθε κάθιζον,  
ἀτλήτους Μινύησι δόλους καὶ κήδεα τεύχων.  
στεῦτο δ', ἐπεὶ κεν πρῶτα βόες διαδηλῶσονται

ἄνδρα τόν, ὃς ῥ' ὑπέδεκτο βαρὺν καμέεσθαι ἄεθλον, 580  
 δρυμὸν ἀναρρήξας λασίης καθύπερθε κολώνης  
 αὐτανδρον φλέξειν δόρυ νήιον, ὅφρ' ἄλεγεινὴν  
 ὕβριν ἀποφλύξωσιν ὑπέρβια μηχανώοντες.  
 οὐδὲ γὰρ Αἰολίδην Φρίξον μάλα περ χατέοντα  
 δέχθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἐφέστιον, ὃς περὶ πάντων  
 ξείνων μειλίχη τε θεουδείῃ τ' ἐκέκαστο,  
 εἰ μὴ οἱ Ζεὺς αὐτὸς ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἄγγελον ἦκεν  
 Ἑρμείαν, ὥς κεν προσκηδέος ἀντιάσειεν·  
 μὴ καὶ ληιστήρας ἔην ἐς γαῖαν ἰόντας 590  
 ἔσσεσθαι δηναιὸν ἀπήμονας, οἷσι μέμηλεν  
 ὀθνείοις ἐπὶ χεῖρα ἔην κτεάτεσσιν αἶρειν,  
 κρυπταδίους τε δόλους τεκταινέμεν, ἥδὲ βοτῆρων  
 αὖλια δυσκελάδοισιν ἐπιδρομήσι δαίξαι.  
 νόσφι δὲ οἱ αὐτῷ φάτ' ἐοικότα μείλια τίσειν  
 νήας Φρίξοιο, κακορρέκτησιν ὀπηδοὺς  
 ἀνδράσι νοστήσαντας ὁμιλαδόν, ὅφρα ἑ τιμῆς  
 καὶ σκήπτρων ἐλάσειαν ἀκηδέες· ὥς ποτε βάξιν  
 λευγαλέην οὐ πατρὸς ἐπέκλυεν Ἥελίοιο,  
 χρειῶ μιν πυκινόν τε δόλον βουλὰς τε γενέθλης  
 σφωιτέρης ἄτην τε πολύτροπον ἐξαλέασθαι 600  
 τῷ καὶ ἐελδομένους πέμπειν ἐς Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν  
 πατρὸς ἐφημοσύνη, δολιχὴν ὁδόν. οὐδὲ θυγατρῶν  
 εἶναι οἱ τυτθὸν γε δέος, μὴ πού τινα μήτιν  
 φράσσωνται στυγερήν, οὐδ' νείος Ἀψύρτοιο·  
 ἀλλ' ἐνὶ Χαλκιόπης γενεῇ τάδε λυγρὰ τετύχθαι.  
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἄσχετα ἔργα πιφαύσκετο δημοτέροισιν  
 χωόμενος· μέγα δὲ σφιν ἀπείλεε νῆά τ' ἐρύσθαι  
 ἢδ' αὐτούς, ἵνα μήτις ὑπέκ κακότητος ἀλύξῃ.



Τόφρα δὲ μητέρ' ἔην, μετιῶν δόμον Αἰήταο,  
 Ἄργος παντοίοισι παρηγορέσκ' ἐπέεσσιν,  
 Μήδειαν λίσσεσθαι ἀμυνέμεν· ἡ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ  
 πρόσθεν μητιάσκει· δέος δέ μιν ἴσχανε θυμόν,  
 μή πως ἥε παρ' αἴσαν ἐτώσια μειλίξαιτο  
 πατρός ἀτυζομένην ὅλοον χόλον, ἥε λιτῆσιν  
 ἐσπομένης ἀρίδηλα καὶ ἀμφαδὰ ἔργα πέλοιτο.

610

Κούρην δ' ἐξ ἀχέων ἀδινὸς κατελώφρεν ὕπνος  
 λέκτρῳ ἀνακλινθεῖσαν. ἄφαρ δέ μιν ἠπεροπῆες,  
 οἷά τ' ἀκηχεμένην, ὅλοοι ἐρέθεσκον ὄνειροι.  
 τὸν ξεῖνον δ' ἐδόκησεν ὑφειστάμεναι τὸν αἶθλον,  
 οὔτι μάλ' ὀρμαίνοντα δέρος κριοῖο κομίσσαι,  
 οὐδέ τι τοιοῦτον ἔκῃτι μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο  
 ἐλθόμεν, ὅφρα δέ μιν σφέτερον δόμον εἰσαγάγοιτο  
 κουριδίην παράκοιτιν· ὅλετο δ' ἀμφὶ βόεσσιν  
 αὐτῇ ἀεθλεύουσα μάλ' εὐμαρέως πονέεσθαι·  
 σφωιτέρους δὲ τοκῆας ὑποσχεσίης ἀθερίζειν,  
 οὐνεκεν οὐ κούρῃ ζεῦξαι βόας, ἀλλὰ οἱ αὐτῷ  
 προύθεσαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῦ νεῖκος πέλεν ἀμφήριστον  
 πατρί τε καὶ ξείνοισ'· αὐτῇ δ' ἐπιέτρεπον ἄμφω  
 τῶς ἔμεν, ὥς κεν ἔῃσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.  
 ἡ δ' ἄφνω τὸν ξεῖνον, ἀφειδήσασα τοκῆων,  
 εἵλετο· τοὺς δ' ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν, ἐκ δ' ἐ-  
 βόησαν

620

630

χωόμενοι· τὴν δ' ὕπνος ἅμα κλαγγῇ μεθέηκεν.  
 παλλομένη δ' ἀνόρουσε φόβῳ, περί τ' ἀμφὶ τε τόλ-  
 χους

παίπτηνεν θαλάμοιο· μόλις δ' ἐσαγείρατο θυμόν  
 ὥς πάρος ἐν στέρνοισι, ἀδινὴν δ' ἀνερείκατο φωνήν·  
 'Δειλὴ ἐγών, οἷόν με βαρεῖς ἐφόβησαν ὄνειροι,  
 δεῖδια, μὴ μέγα δὴ τι φέρῃ κακὸν ἦδε κέλευθος

ἡρώων. περί μοι ξείνῳ φρένες ἡερέθονται.  
 μνάσθω ἔδν κατὰ δῆμον Ἀχαιίδα τηλόθι κούρην·  
 ἄμμι δὲ παρθενίη τε μέλοι καὶ δῶμα τοκῆων.  
 ἔμπα γε μὴν θεμέρη κύνεον κέαρ, οὐκέτ' ἄνευθεν  
 αὐτοκασυγνήτης πειρήσομαι, εἰ κέ μ' ἀέθλω  
 χραιομεῖν ἀντιάσῃσιν, ἐπὶ σφετέροις ἀχέουσα  
 παισί· τό κέν μοι λυγρὸν ἐνὶ κραδίῳ σβέσαι<sup>1</sup> ἄλγος.

640

Ἡ ῥα, καὶ ὀρθωθείσα θύρας ὤϊξε δόμοιο,  
 νήλιπος, οἰάναος· καὶ δὴ λελίητο νέεσθαι  
 αὐτοκασυγνήτηνδε, καὶ ἔρκεος οὐδὸν ἄμειψεν.  
 δὴν δὲ καταυτόθι μίμνεν ἐνὶ προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο,  
 αἰδοῖ ἐργομένη· μετὰ δ' ἐτράπετ' αὐτὶς ὀπίσσω  
 στρεφθεῖσα· ἐκ δὲ πάλιν κίεν ἔνδοθεν, ἅψ τ' ἀλέ-

εινεν

650

εἶδω· τηῦσιοι δὲ πόδες φέρον ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα·  
 ἦτοι ὅτ' ἰθύσειεν, ἔρυκέ μιν ἔνδοθεν αἰδώς·  
 αἰδοῖ δ' ἐργομένην θρασὺς ἱμερος ὀτρύνεσκεν.  
 τρὶς μὲν ἐπειρήθη, τρὶς δ' ἔσχετο, τέτρατον αὐτὶς  
 λέκτροισιν πρηνῆς ἐνικάππεσεν εἰλιχθεῖσα.  
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τις νύμφη θαλερὸν πόσιν ἐν θαλάμοισιν  
 μύρεται, ᾧ μιν ὕπασσαν ἀδελφεοὶ ἠδὲ τοκῆες,  
 οὐδέ τί πω πάσαις ἐπιμίσγεται ἀμφιπόλοισιν  
 αἰδοῖ ἐπιφροσύνη τε· μυχῷ δ' ἀχέουσα θαάσσει·  
 τὸν δὲ τις ὤλεσε μοῖρα, πάρος ταρπήμεναι ἄμφω  
 δῆνεσιν ἀλλήλων· ἢ δ' ἔνδοθι δαιομένη περ  
 σῖγα μάλα κλαίει χῆρον λέχος εἰσορόωσα,  
 μὴ μιν κερτομέουσai ἐπιστοβέωσι γυναῖκες·  
 τῇ ἱκέλῃ Μῆδεια κινύρετο. τὴν δὲ τις ἄφνω  
 μυρομένην μεσσηγὺς ἐπιπρομολοῦσ' ἐνόησεν

660

<sup>1</sup> σβέσαι Madvig: σβέσαι MSS.

Ἀργος, ἐποτρύνων με τείης πειρήσαι ἄρωγής·  
 μεσσηγὺς μὲν τότε δόμῳ λίπον ἐνθάδ' ἰοῦσα.<sup>1</sup>

Ὦς φάτο· τῇ δ' ἐντοσθεν ἀνέπτατο χάρματι  
 θυμός,

φοινίχθη δ' ἄμυδις καλὸν χροά, καὶ δέ μιν ἰχλὺς  
 εἶλεν ἰαινομένην, τοῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἔειπεν·

Ἑλκιδόπη, ὡς ὕμμι φίλον τερπνόν τε τέτυκται,  
 ὡς ἔρξω. μὴ γάρ μοι ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι φαίνοι

ἡώς, μηδέ με δηρὸν ἔτι ζώουσας ἰδοιο,  
 εἴ γέ τι σῆς ψυχῆς προφερέστερον, ἢ τι παίδων 730

σῶν θείην, οἳ δὴ μοι ἀδελφείοι γεγάασιν,  
 κηδεμόνες τε φίλοι καὶ ὁμήλικες. ὡς δέ καὶ αὐτῇ

φημι κασιγνήτῃ τε σέθεν κούρῃ τε πέλεσθαι,  
 ἴσον ἐπεὶ κείνοις με τεῶ ἐπαείραο μαζῶ

νηπυτίην, ὡς αἶν ἐγὼ ποτε μητρὸς ἄκουον.  
 ἀλλ' ἴθι, κεῖθε δ' ἐμὴν σιγῇ χάριν, ὄφρα τοκῆας

λήσομαι ἐντύνουσα ὑπόσχεσιν· ἦρι δέ νηὸν  
 οἶσομαι<sup>1</sup> εἰς Ἑκάτης θελκτήρια φάρμακα ταύρων.

Ὦς ἦγ' ἐκ θαλάμοιο πάλιν κίε, παισὶ τ' ἄρωγην 740  
 αὐτοκασιγνήτης διεπέφραδε. τὴν δέ μιν αὖτις<sup>2</sup>

αἰδώς τε στυγερόν τε δέος λάβε μουνωθεῖσαν,  
 τοῖα παρέξ οὐ πατρὸς ἐπ' ἀνέρι μητιύασθαι.

Νῦξ μὲν ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἄγεν κνέφας· οἳ δ'  
 ἐνὶ πόντῳ

ναῦται<sup>3</sup> εἰς Ἑλίκην τε καὶ Ἀστέρας Ὀρίωνος  
 ἔδρακον ἐκ νηῶν· ὕπνοιο δέ καί τις ὀδίτης  
 ἦδη καὶ πυλαωρὸς ἐέλδετο· καὶ τινα παίδων  
 μητέρα τεθνεώτων ἀδινὸν περὶ κῶμ' ἐκάλυπτεν·

<sup>1</sup> οἶσομαι L. After this line occurs in scholia as a variant  
 the line οἶσομένη ξείνῃ ὑπὲρ οὗ τότε νεῖκος ὕμνε.

<sup>2</sup> μάλ' αὖτις and μεταῖτις have been conjectured.

<sup>3</sup> ναυτίλοι Porson.

μοῖρα πέλει. πῶς γάρ κεν ἐμοὺς λελάθοιμι τοκῆας  
 φάρμακα μησαμένη; ποῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἐνίψω; 780  
 τίς δὲ δόλος, τίς μῆτις ἐπὶ κλοπος ἔσσειτ' ἀρωγῆς;  
 ἢ μιν ἀνευθ' ἐτάρων προσπτύξομαι οἷον ἰδοῦσα;  
 δύσμορος οὐ μὲν ἔολπα καταφθιμένοιο περ ἔμπης  
 λωφήσειν ἀχέων· τότε δ' ἂν κακὸν ἄμμι πέλοιτο,  
 κεῖνος ὅτε ζωῆς ἀπαμείρεται. ἔρρέτω αἰδώς,  
 ἔρρέτω ἀγλαΐη ὅ δ' ἐμῇ ἰότητι σαωθεῖς  
 ἀσκηθῆς, ἵνα οἱ θυμῷ φίλον, ἔνθα νέοιτο.  
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν αὐτῆμαρ, ὅτ' ἐξανύσειεν ἄεθλον,  
 τεθναίνην, ἢ λαιμὸν ἀναρτήσασα μελάβρω,  
 ἢ καὶ πασσαμένη ραιστήρια φάρμακα θυμοῦ. 790  
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὥς φθιμένη μοι ἐπιλλίξουσιν ὀπίσσω  
 κερτομίας· τηλοῦ δὲ πόλις περὶ πᾶσα βοήσει  
 πότμον ἐμόν· καὶ κέν με διὰ στόματος φορέουσai  
 Κολχίδες ἄλλυδις ἄλλαι ἀεικέα μωμήσονται  
 ἣτις κηδομένη τόσον ἀνέρος ἀλλοδαποῖο  
 κάτθανεν, ἣτις δῶμα καὶ οὐς ἥσχυνε τοκῆας,  
 μαργουσύνῃ εἵξασα. τί δ' οὐκ ἐμόν ἔσσεται αἰσχος;  
 ὦ μοι ἐμῆς αἵτης. ἢ τ' ἂν πολὺν κέρδιον εἴη  
 τῇδ' αὐτῇ ἐν νυκτὶ λιπεῖν βίον ἐν θαλάμοισιν  
 πότμῳ ἀνωίστῳ, κῆκ' ἐλέγχεα πάντα φυγοῦσαν, 800  
 πρὶν τάδε λωβήεντα καὶ οὐκ ὀνομαστὰ τελέσσαι.

Ἡ, καὶ φωριαμὸν μετεκίαθεν, ἢ ἐνὶ πολλὰ  
 φάρμακά οἱ, τὰ μὲν ἐσθλά, τὰ δὲ ραιστήρι', ἔκειτο.  
 ἐνθεμένη δ' ἐπὶ γούνατ' ὀδύρετο. δεῦτε δὲ κόλπους  
 ἀλληκτον δακρύοισι, τὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσταγὲς αὐτῶς,  
 αἶν' ὀλοφυρομένης τὸν ἐὸν μόρον. ἤτο δ' ἦγε  
 φάρμακα λέξασθαι θυμοφθόρα, τόφρα πάσαιτο.  
 ἦδη καὶ δεσμοὺς ἀνελύετο φωριαμοῖο,  
 ἐξελέειν μεμανία, δυσάμμορος. ἀλλὰ οἱ ἄφνω

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

could I prepare the charms without my parents' knowledge? What story can I tell them? What trick, what cunning device for aid can I find? If I see him alone, apart from his comrades, shall I greet him? Ill-starred that I am! I cannot hope that I should rest from my sorrows even though he perished; then will evil come to me when he is bereft of life. Perish all shame, perish all glory; may he, saved by my effort, go scatheless wherever his heart desires. But as for me, on the day when he hides the contest in triumph, may I die either straining my neck in the noose from the roof-tree or tasting drugs destructive of life. But even so, when I am dead, they will fling out taunts against me; and every city far away will ring with my doom, and the Colchian women, tossing my name on their lips hither and thither, will revile me with unseemly mocking—the maid who cared so much for a stranger that she died, the maid who disgraced her home and her parents, yielding to a mad passion. And what disgrace will not be mine? Alas for my infatuation! Far better would it be for me to forsake life this very night in my chamber by some mysterious fate, escaping all slanderous reproach, before I complete such nameless dishonour."

She spake, and brought a casket wherein lay many drugs, some for healing, others for killing, and placing it upon her knees she wept. And she drenched her bosom with ceaseless tears, which flowed in torrents as she sat, bitterly bewailing her own fate. And she longed to choose a murderous drug to taste it, and now she was loosening the bands of the casket eager to take it forth, unhappy maid! But suddenly a deadly fear of

δεῖμ' ὀλοὸν στυγεροῖο κατὰ φρένας ἦλθ' Ἀίδαο.  
ἔσχετο δ' ἀμφασίῃ δηρὸν χρόνον, ἀμφὶ δὲ πᾶσαι  
θυμηδεῖς βιότοιο μεληδόνες ἰνδάλλοντο.

810

μνήσατο μὲν τερπνῶν, ὅσ' ἐνὶ ζωοῖσι πέλονται,  
μνήσαθ' ὀμηλικίης περιγηθέος, οἷά τε κούρη  
καὶ τέ οἱ ἥελιος γλυκίων γένητ' εἰσοράασθαι,  
ἢ πάρος, εἰ ἐτεόν γε νόφ' ἐπεμαίεθ' ἕκαστα.  
καὶ τὴν μὲν ῥα πάλιν σφετέρων ἀποκάτθετο  
γούνων,

"Ἦρῃς ἐννεσίῃσι μετάτροπος, οὐδ' ἔτι βουλὰς  
ἄλλῃ δοιάζεσκεν· ἐέλδετο δ' αἶψα φανῆναι  
ἡὼ τελλομένην, ἵνα οἱ θελκτήρια δοίῃ  
φάρμακα συνθεσίῃσι, καὶ ἀντήσειεν ἐς ὥπῃν.  
πυκνὰ δ' ἀνὰ κληῖδας ἐὼν λύσκε θυράων,  
αἶγλην σκεπτομένη· τῇ δ' ἀσπᾶσιον βάλε φέγγος  
Ἦρυγενῆς, κίνυντο δ' ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον ἕκαστοι.

820

Ἔωθα κασιγνήτους μὲν ἔτ' αὐτόθι μέναι ἀνώγει  
Ἀργος, ἵνα φράζοιντο νόον καὶ μῆδεα κούρης·  
αὐτὸς δ' αὐτ' ἐπὶ νῆα κίεν προπάροιθε λιασθεῖς.

Ἦ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν τὰ πρῶτα φαινομένην ἶδεν ἡὼ  
παρθενική, ξανθὰς μὲν ἀνήψατο χερσὶν ἐθείρας,  
αἱ οἱ ἀτημελίῃ καταειμέναι ἡερέθοντο,  
αὖσταλίας δ' ἔψῃσε παρηίδας· αὐτὰρ ἀλοιφῇ  
νεκταρέῃ φαιδρύνετ' ἐπὶ χροᾷ· δύνε δὲ πέπλον  
καλόν, εὐγνάμπτοισιν ἀρηρέμενον περόνῃσιν  
ἀμβροσίῳ δ' ἐφύπερθε καρήατι βάλλε καλύπτρην  
ἀργυφέν. αὐτοῦ δὲ δόμοις ἐνὶ διευέουσα  
στεῖβε πέδον λήθῃ ἀχέων, τὰ οἱ ἐν ποσὶν ἦεν  
θεσπέσι, ἄλλα τ' ἔμελλεν ἀεξήσεσθαι ὀπίσσω.  
κέκλετο δ' ἀμφιπόλοισι, αἱ οἱ δυοκαίδεκα πᾶσαι  
ἐν προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο θυώδεος ἡυλίζοντο

830

ἡλικες, οὐπω λέκτρα σὺν ἀνδράσι πορσύνουσαι, 840  
 ἐσσυμένως οὐρήας ὑποζεύξασθαι ἀπήνη,  
 οἳ κέ μιν εἰς Ἑκάτης περικαλλέα νηὸν ἄγοιεν.  
 ἔνθ' αὐτ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ἐφοπλίζεσκον ἀπήνην  
 ἢ δὲ τέως γλαφυρῆς ἐξείλετο φωριαμοῖο  
 φάρμακον, ὃ ρά τέ φασι Προμήθειον καλέεσθαι.  
 τῷ εἰ κ' ἐννυχίοισιν ἀρεσσάμενος θνέεσσιν  
 Κούρην<sup>1</sup> μονογένειαν ἐὼν δέμας ἱκμαίνοντο,  
 ἦ τ' ἂν ὄγ' οὔτε ῥηκτὸς ἔοι χαλκοῖο τυπῆσιν,  
 οὔτε κεν αἰθομένῳ πυρὶ εἰκάθοι· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀλκῇ 850  
 λαιότερος κεῖν' ἤμαρ ὁμῶς κάρτει τε πέλοιτο.  
 πρωτοφυῆς τόγ' ἀνέσχε καταστάξαντος ἔραζε  
 αἰετοῦ ὠμηστέῳ κνημοῖς ἐνὶ Καυκασίοισιν  
 αἱματόεντ' ἰχώρα Προμηθῆος μογεροῖο.  
 τοῦ δ' ἦτοι ἄνθος μὲν ὅσον πήχυιον ὑπερθεν  
 χροῖῃ Κωρυκίῳ ἱκελον κρόκῳ ἐξεφαάνθη,  
 καυλοῖσιν διδύμοισιν ἐπήγορον· ἦ δ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ  
 σαρκὶ νεοτμήτῳ ἐναλιγκίῃ ἔπλετο ῥίζα.  
 τῆς οἶν τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι κελαινὴν ἱκμάδα φηγοῦ  
 Κασπίῃ ἐν κόχλῳ ἀμήσατο φαρμάσσεσθαι,  
 ἐπτά μὲν ἀενάοισι λοεσσαμένη ὑδάτεσσιν, 860  
 ἐπτάκι δὲ Βριμὼ κουροτρόφον ἀγκαλέσασα,  
 Βριμὼ νυκτιπόλον, χθονίνην, ἐνέροισιν ἀνασσαν,  
 λυγαίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτί, σὺν ὀρφναίοις φαρέεσσιν.  
 μυκηθμῷ δ' ὑπένερθεν ἐρεμνὴ σείετο γαῖα,  
 ῥίζης τεμνομένης Τιτηνίδος· ἔστενε δ' αὐτὸς  
 Ἰαπετοῖο πάϊς ὀδύνη πέρι θυμὸν ἀλύων.  
 τό ρ' ἦγ' ἐξανελούσα θυώδει κάτθετο μίτρη,  
 ἦτε οἱ ἀμβροσίοισι περὶ στήθεσσιν ἔερτο.  
 ἐκ δὲ θύραζε κιοῦσα θεῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπήνης·  
 σὺν δέ οἱ ἀμφίπολοι δοιαὶ ἐκάτερθεν ἔβησαν. 870

<sup>1</sup> Κούρην] Δαΐραν G, schol.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

her right hand the well-fashioned whip, and drove through the city; and the rest, the handmaids, laid their hands on the chariot behind and ran along the broad highway; and they kilted up their light robes above their white knees. And even as by the mild waters of Parthenius, or after bathing in the river Amnisus, Leto's daughter stands upon her golden chariot and courses over the hills with her swift-footed roes, to greet from afar some richly-steaming hecatomb; and with her come the nymphs in attendance, gathering, some at the spring of Amnisus itself, others by the glens and many-fountained peaks; and round her whine and fawn the beasts cowering as she moves along: thus they sped through the city; and on both sides the people gave way, shunning the eyes of the royal maiden. But when she had left the city's well paved streets, and was approaching the shrine as she drove over the plains, then she alighted eagerly from the smooth-running chariot and spake as follows among her maidens:

"Friends, verily have I sinned greatly and took no heed not to go among the stranger-folk<sup>1</sup> who roam over our land. The whole city is smitten with dismay; wherefore no one of the women who formerly gathered here day by day has now come hither. But since we have come and no one else draws near, come, let us satisfy our souls without stint with soothing song, and when we have plucked the fair flowers amid the tender grass, that very hour will we

<sup>1</sup> or, reading *μήτις*, "took no heed of the cause of wrath with the stranger-folk"



καὶ δέ κε σὺν πολέεσσιν ὀνείασιν οἴκαδ' ἴκοισθε 900  
 ἡματι τῷ, εἴ μοι συναρέσσετε τήνδε μενοιμήν.  
 Ἄργος γάρ μ' ἐπέεσσι παρατρέπει, ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ  
 Χαλκιόπη· τὰ δὲ σίγα νόῳ ἔχει· εἰσαΐουσαι  
 ἐξ ἐμέθεν, μὴ πατρὸς ἐς οὐατα μῦθος ἴκηται.  
 τὸν ξεινὸν με κέλονται, ὅτις περὶ βουσὶν ὑπέστη,  
 δῶρ' ἀποδεξαμένην ὀλοῶν ῥύσασθαι ἀέθλων.  
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν μῦθον ἐπήνεον, ἥδὲ καὶ αὐτὸν  
 κέκλωμαι εἰς ὥπην ἐτάρων ἄπο μῦνον ἰκέσθαι,  
 ὄφρα τὰ μὲν δασόμεσθα μετὰ σφίσιν, εἴ κεν ὀπάσση  
 δῶρα φέρων, τῷ δ' αὖτε κακώτερον ἄλλο πόρωμεν 910  
 φάρμακον. ἄλλ' ἀπονόσφι πέλεσθέ μοι, εὖτ' ἂν ἴκη-  
 ται.

\*Ὡς ἡῦδα· πάσῃσι δ' ἐπὶ κλοπος ἦνδανε μῆτις.  
 αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδαην ἐτάρων ἄπο μῦνον ἐρύσσας  
 Ἄργος, ὅτ' ἤδη τήνδε κασιγνήτων ἐσάκουσεν  
 ἡερίην Ἐκάτης ἱερὸν μετὰ νηὸν ἰούσαν,  
 ἦγε διέκ πεδίου· ἅμα δὲ σφίσιν εἶπετο Μόψος  
 Ἀμπυκίδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ἐπιπροφανέντας ἐνισπεῖν  
 οἰωνούς, ἐσθλὸς δὲ σὺν εὖ φρύσσασθαι ἰούσιν.

\*Ἐνθ' οὐπω τις τοῖος ἐπὶ προτέρων γένετ' ἀνδρῶν,  
 οὐθ' ὅσοι ἐξ αὐτοῖο Διὸς γένος, οὐθ' ὅσοι ἄλλων 920  
 ἀθανάτων ἥρωες ἀφ' αἵματος ἐβλήστησαν,  
 οἷον Ἰήσωνα θῆκε Διὸς δάμαρ ἡματι κείνῳ  
 ἡμὲν ἐσάντα ἰδεῖν, ἥδὲ προτιμυθήσασθαι.  
 τὸν καὶ παπταίνοντες ἐθίμβεον αὐτοῖ ἐταῖροι  
 λαμπόμενοι χαρίτεσσιν ἐγήθησεν δὲ κελεύθῳ  
 Ἀμπυκίδης, ἤδη που οἰσσύμενος τὰ ἕκαστα.

\*Ἔστι δέ τις πεδίοιο κατὰ στίβον ἐγγύθι νηοῦ  
 αἵγειρος φύλλοισιν ἀπειρεσίοις κομόωσα,  
 τῇ θαμὰ δὴ λακέρυζαι ἐπηυλίζοντο κορῶναι.

τᾶν τις μεσσηγὺς ἀνὰ πτερὰ κινήσασα  
 ὑψοῦ ἐπ' ἀκρεμόνων Ἥρης ἠνίπαπε βουλᾶς·  
 Ἄκλειης ὃδε μάντις, ὃς οὐδ' ὅσα παῖδες ἴσασιν  
 οἶδε νόῳ φράσσασθαι, ὁθύνεκεν οὔτε τι λαρὸν  
 οὐτ' ἐρατὸν κούρη κεν ἔπος πρυτιμυθήσαιο  
 ἠθέω, εὐτ' ἂν σφιν ἐπήλυδες ἄλλοι ἔπωνται.  
 ἔρροις, ὦ κακόμαντι, κακοφραδές· οὔτε σε Κύπρις,  
 οὐτ' ἀγανοὶ φιλέοντες ἐπιπνεύουσιν Ἑρωτες.  
 Ἴσκειν ἀτεμβομένη· μείδῃσε δὲ Μόψος ἀκούσας  
 ὁμφὴν οἰωνοῖο θεήλατον, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·  
 Ἔννη μὲν νηόνδε θεᾶς ἴθι, τῷ ἐνὶ κούρην  
 δῆεις, Αἰσονίδῃ· μάλα δ' ἠπὶ ἂντιβολήσεις  
 Κύπριδος ἐννεσίης, ἥ τοι συνέριθος ἀέθλων  
 ἔσσεται, ὥς δὴ καὶ πρὶν Ἀγηνορίδης φάτο Φινεύς.  
 νῶϊ δ', ἐγὼν Ἄργος τε, δεδεγμένοι, εὐτ' ἂν ἴκηαι,  
 τῷδ' αὐτῷ ἐνὶ χώρῳ ἀπεσσόμεθ'· οἴοθι δ' αὐτὸς  
 λίσσεό μιν πυκινόισι παρατροπέων ἐπέεσσιν.  
 Ἡ ῥα περιφραδέως, ἐπὶ δὲ σχεδὸν ἤνεον ἄμφω·  
 οὐδ' ἄρα Μηδείης θυμὸς τράπετ' ἄλλα νοῆσαι,  
 μελπομένης περ ὅμως· πᾶσαι δέ οἱ, ἦντιν' ἀθύροι  
 μολπήν, οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐφήνδανεν ἐψιάσθαι.  
 ἀλλὰ μεταλλήγεσκεν ἀμύχανος, οὐδέ ποτ' ὅσσε  
 ἀμφιπόλων μεθ' ὁμίλον ἔχ' ἀτρέμας· ἐς δὲ κελεύθους  
 τηλόσε παπταίνεσκε, παρυκλίνουσα παρειάς.  
 ἦ θαμὰ δὴ στηθέων ἐάγῃ κέαρ, ὅππότε δούπων  
 ἦ ποδὸς ἦ ἀνέμοιο παραθρέξαντα δοῦίσσαι.  
 αὐτὰρ ὃγ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐλδομέτῃ ἐφαάνθη  
 ὑψόσ' ἀναθρόσκων ἄτε Σείριος Ὠκεανοῖο,  
 ὃς δὴ τοι καλὸς μὲν ἀρίζηλός τ' ἐσιδέσθαι  
 ἀντέλλει, μήλοισι δ' ἐν ἄσπετον ἦκεν οἰζύν·  
 ὥς ἄρα τῇ καλὸς μὲν ἐπήλυθεν εἰσοράσθαι  
 Αἰσονίδης, κίματον δὲ δυσίμερον ὥρσε φαανθείς.

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

of them meantime as she clapped her wings aloft in the branches uttered the counsels of Hera :

"What a pitiful seer is this, that has not the wit to conceive even what children know, how that no maiden will say a word of sweetness or love to a youth when strangers be near. Begone, sorry prophet, witless one ; on thee neither Cypris nor the gentle Loves breathe in their kindness."

She spake chiding, and Mopsus smiled to hear the god-sent voice of the bird, and thus addressed them : "Do thou, son of Aeson, pass on to the temple, where thou wilt find the maiden ; and very kind will her greeting be to thee through the prompting of Cypris, who will be thy helpmate in the contest, even as Phineus, Agenor's son, foretold. But we two, Argus and I, will await thy return, apart in this very spot ; do thou all alone be a suppliant and win her over with prudent words."

He spake wisely, and both at once gave approval. Nor was Medea's heart turned to other thoughts, for all her singing, and never a song that she essayed pleased her long in her sport. But in confusion she ever faltered, nor did she keep her eyes resting quietly upon the throng of her handmaids ; but to the paths far off she strained her gaze, turning her face aside. Oft did her heart sink fainting within her bosom whenever she fancied she heard passing by the sound of a footfall or of the wind. But soon he appeared to her longing eyes, striding along loftily, like Sirius coming from ocean, which rises fair and clear to see, but brings unspeakable mischief to flocks ; thus then did Aeson's son come to her, fair to see, but the sight of him brought love-sick

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

care. Her heart fell from out her bosom, and a dark mist came over her eyes, and a hot blush covered her cheeks. And she had no strength to lift her knees backwards or forwards, but her feet beneath were rooted to the ground; and meantime all her handmaidens had drawn aside. So they two stood face to face without a word, without a sound, like oaks or lofty pines, which stand quietly side by side on the mountains when the wind is still; then again, when stirred by the breath of the wind, they murmur ceaselessly; so they two were destined to tell out all their tale, stirred by the breath of Love. And Aeson's son saw that she had fallen into some heaven-sent calamity, and with soothing words thus addressed her:

"Why, pray, maiden, dost thou fear me so much, all alone as I am? Never was I one of these idle boasters such as other men are—not even aforetime, when I dwelt in my own country. Wherefore, maiden, be not too much abashed before me, either to enquire whatever thou wilt or to speak thy mind. But since we have met one another with friendly hearts, in a hallowed spot, where it is wrong to sin, speak openly and ask questions, and beguile me not with pleasing words, for at the first thou didst promise thy sister to give me the charms my heart desires. I implore thee by Hecate herself, by thy parents, and by Zeus who holds his guardian hand over strangers and suppliants; I come here to thee both a suppliant and a stranger, bending the knee in my sore need. For without thee and thy sister never shall I prevail in the grievous contest. And to thee will I render thanks hereafter for thy aid, as is right and fitting for men who dwell far off,

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

making glorious thy name and fame; and the rest of the heroes, returning to Hellas, will spread thy renown and so will the heroes' wives and mothers, who now perhaps are sitting on the shore and making moan for us; their painful affliction thou mightest scatter to the winds. In days past the maiden Ariadne, daughter of Minos, with kindly intent rescued Theseus from grim contests—the maiden whom Pasiphae daughter of Helios bore. But she, when Minos had lulled his wrath to rest, went aboard the ship with him and left her fatherland; and her even the immortal gods loved, and, as a sign in mid-sky, a crown of stars, which men call Ariadne's crown, rolls along all night among the heavenly constellations. So to thee too shall be thanks from the gods, if thou wilt save so mighty an array of chieftains. For surely from thy lovely form thou art like to excel in gentle courtesy."

Thus he spake, honouring her; and she cast her eyes down with a smile divinely sweet; and her soul melted within her, uplifted by his praise, and she gazed upon him face to face; nor did she know what word to utter first, but was eager to pour out everything at once. And forth from her fragrant girdle ungrudgingly she brought out the charm; and he at once received it in his hands with joy. And she would even have drawn out all her soul from her breast and given it to him, exulting in his desire; so wonderfully did love flash forth a sweet flame from the golden head of Aeson's son; and he captivated her gleaming eyes; and her heart within grew warm, melting away as the dew melts away round roses when warmed by the morning's light. And now both

ἄμφω δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν τε κατ' οὐδεος ὄμματ' ἔρειδον  
αἰδόμενοι, ὅτε δ' αὖτις ἐπὶ σφίσι βάλλον ὀπωπίας,  
ἱμερόεν φαιδρῆσιν ὑπ' ὀφρύσι μειδιῶντες.

ὄψ' δὲ δὴ τοίοισι μόλις προσπτύξατο κούρη·

· Φράζω νῦν, ὥς κέν τοι ἐγὼ μητίσομ' ἄρωγ' ἴν.

εὖτ' ἂν δὴ μετιόντι πατήρ ἐμὸς ἐγγυαλίξῃ  
ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων ὀλοοὺς σπείρασθαι ὀδόντας,  
δὴ τότε μέσσην νύκτα διαμμοιρηδὰ φυλάξας,  
ἀκαμάτοιο ῥοῇσι λοεσσάμενος ποταμοῖο,  
οἶος ἄνευθ' ἄλλων ἐνὶ φάρεσι κυανέοισιν  
βόθρον ὀρύξασθαι περιηγέα· τῷ δ' ἐνὶ θῆλυν  
ἀρνεῖον σφάζειν, καὶ ἀδαίετον ὠμοθετῆσαι,  
αὐτῷ πυρκαϊὴν εὖ νηήσας ἐπὶ βόθρῳ.

μουνογενῇ δ' Ἑκάτην Περσὴν ἰδὼν μελίσσοιο,  
λείβων ἐκ δέπας σιμβλήμια ἔργα μελισσῶν.  
ἔνθα δ' ἐπεὶ κε θεὰν μεμνημένος ἰλάσσειναι,  
ἄψ' ἀπὸ πυρκαϊῆς ἀναχάξω· μηδὲ σε δοῦπος  
ἢ ποδῶν ὀρσῇσι μεταστρεφθῆναι ὀπίσσω,  
ἢ κυνῶν ὑλακῇ, μὴ πως τὰ ἕκαστα κολούσας  
οὐδ' αὐτὸς κατὰ κόσμον ἑοῖς ἐτάροισι πελάσσης.

ἦρι δὲ μυδῆνας τόδε φάρμακον, ἥν' αἰδοῖται  
γυμνωθεὶς φαίδρυνε τεὸν δέμας· ἐν δέ οἱ ἄλκῃ  
ἔσσειτ' ἀπειρεσίη μέγα τε σθένος, οὐδέ κε φαίης  
ἀνδράσιν, ἀλλὰ θεοῖσιν ἰσαζέμεν ἀθανάτοισιν.  
πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτῷ δουρὶ σάκος πεπαλαγμένον ἔστω  
καὶ ξίφος. ἐνθ' οὐκ ἂν σε διατμήξειαν ἀκῶκαι  
γυμνῶν ἀνδρῶν, οὐδ' ἄσχετος αἴσσοις  
φλόξ ὀλοῶν ταύρων. τοῖός γε μὲν οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν  
ἔσσειαι, ἀλλ' αὐτῇμαρ· ὅμως σύ γε μὴ ποτ' ἀέθλου  
χάξω. καὶ δέ τοι ἄλλο παρὲξ ὑποθήσομ' ὄνειρα.  
αὐτίκ' ἐπὶ κρατεροὺς ζεύξης βόας, ὧκα δὲ πᾶσαν  
χερσὶ καὶ ἡνιόχῃ στυφελὴν διὰ νειὸν ἀρόσσης,

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

were fixing their eyes on the ground abashed, and again were throwing glances at each other, smiling with the light of love beneath their radiant brows. And at last and scarcely then did the maiden greet him :

“ Take heed now, that I may devise help for thee. When at thy coming my father has given thee the deadly teeth from the dragon’s jaws for sowing, then watch for the time when the night is parted in twain, then bathe in the stream of the tireless river, and alone, apart from others, clad in dusky raiment, dig a rounded pit ; and therein slay a ewe, and sacrifice it whole, heaping high the pyre on the very edge of the pit. And propitiate only-begotten Hecate, daughter of Perses, pouring from a goblet the hive-stored labour of bees. And then, when thou hast heedfully sought the grace of the goddess, retreat from the pyre ; and let neither the sound of feet drive thee to turn back, nor the baying of hounds, lest haply thou shouldst maim all the rites and thyself fail to return duly to thy comrades. And at dawn steep this charm in water, strip, and anoint thy body therewith as with oil ; and in it there will be boundless prowess and mighty strength, and thou wilt deem thyself a match not for men but for the immortal gods. And besides, let thy spear and shield and sword be sprinkled. There-upon the spear-heads of the earthborn men shall not pierce thee, nor the flame of the deadly bulls as it rushes forth resistless. But such thou shalt be not for long, but for that one day ; still never flinch from the contest. And I will tell thee besides of yet another help. As soon as thou hast yoked the strong oxen, and with thy might and thy prowess

οἱ δ' ἤδη κατὰ ὠλκας ἀνασταχύουσι Γίγαντες  
 σπειρομένων ὄφιος δυοφερὴν ἐπὶ βῶλον ὀδόντων,  
 αἱ κεν ὀρινομένους πολέας νειοῖο δοκεύσης,  
 λάθρῃ λᾶαν ἄφες στιβαρώτερον· οἱ δ' ἂν ἐπ' αὐτῷ,  
 καρχαλέοι κύνες ὥστε περὶ βρώμης, ὀλέκοιεν  
 ἀλλήλους· καὶ δ' αὐτὸς ἐπείγῃο δημοτῆτος  
 ἰθῦσαι. τὸ δὲ κῶας ἐς Ἑλλάδα τοιοῦ γ' ἔκητι  
 οἶσεαι ἐξ Αἴης τηλοῦ ποθι· νίσσεο δ' ἔμπης,  
 ἧ φίλον, ἧ τοι ἔαδεν ἀφόρμηθέντι νέεσθαι.

1060

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ σῆγα ποδῶν πάρος ὅσσε βαλοῦσα  
 θεσπέσιον λιανοῖσι παρηίδα δάκρυσι δεῦν  
 μυρομένη, ὃ τ' ἔμελλεν ἀπόπροθι πολλὸν ἰοῖο  
 πόντον ἐπιπλάγξασθαι· ἀνιρῷ δέ μιν ἄντην  
 ἐξαυτὶς μύθῳ προσεφώνεεν, εἰλέ τε χειρὸς  
 δεξιτερῆς· δὴ γάρ οἱ ἀπ' ὀφθαλμοῦς λίπεν αἰδώς·

Μνώεο δ', ἦν ἄρα δὴ ποθ' ὑπότροπος οἰκαδ'  
 ἵκηαι,

οὔνομα Μηδείης· ὥς δ' αὐτ' ἐγὼ ἀμφὶς ἐόντος  
 μνήσομαι. εἰπὲ δέ μοι πρόφρων τόδε, πῇ τοι ἔασιν  
 δώματα, πῇ νῦν ἔνθεν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα νηὶ περήσεις·  
 ἢ νύ που ἀφνειοῦ σχεδὸν ἵξεαι Ὀρχομενοῖο,  
 ἦε καὶ Αἰαίης νήσου πέλας; εἰπὲ δὲ κούρην,  
 ἦντινα τήνδ' ὀνόμηνας ἀριγνώτην γεγαυῖαν  
 Πασιφάης, ἢ πατρὸς ὁμόγνιός ἐστιν ἐμεῖο.

1070

Ὡς φάτο· τὸν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν ὑπῆμε δάκρυσι  
 κούρης

οὔλος Ἔρωσ, τοῖον δὲ παραβλήδην ἔπος ηὔδα·

Καὶ λῆν οὐ νύκτας οἶομαι, οὐδέ ποτ' ἡμαρ  
 σεῦ ἐπιλήσασθαι, προφυγῶν μόρον, εἰ ἐτεόν γε  
 φεύξομαι ἄσκηθῆς ἐς Ἀχαιίδα, μηδέ τιw ἄλλον  
 Αἰήτης προβάλλῃσι κακώτερον ἄμμιν ἄεθλον.

1080



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

hast ploughed all the stubborn fallow, and now along the furrows the Giants are springing up, when the serpent's teeth are sown on the dusky clods, if thou markest them uprising in throngs from the fallow, cast unseen among them a massy stone; and they over it, like ravening hounds over their food, will slay one another; and do thou thyself hasten to rush to the battle-strife, and the fleece thereupon thou shalt bear far away from Aea; nevertheless, depart wherever thou wilt, or thy pleasure takes thee, when thou hast gone hence."

Thus she spake, and cast her eyes to her feet in silence, and her cheek, divinely fair, was wet with warm tears as she sorrowed for that he was about to wander far from her side over the wide sea: and once again she addressed him face to face with mournful words, and took his right hand; for now shame had left her eyes:

"Remember, if haply thou returnest to thy home, Medea's name; and so will I remember thine, though thou be far away. And of thy kindness tell me this, where is thy home, whither wilt thou sail hence in thy ship over the sea; wilt thou come near wealthy Orchomenus, or near the Aeaean isle? And tell me of the maiden, whosoever she be that thou hast named, the far-renowned daughter of Pasiphae, who is kinswoman to my father."

Thus she spake; and over him too, at the tears of the maiden, stole Love the destroyer, and he thus answered her:

"All too surely do I deem that never by night and never by day will I forget thee if I escape death and indeed make my way in safety to the Achaean land, and Aeetes set not before us some other

ἐνθένδ' εἰς Ἴωλκὸν ἀναρπάξασαι ἄλλαι,  
ὄφρα σ', ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖτιν ἐλεγχείας προφέρουσα,  
μνήσω ἐμῇ ἰότητι πεφίγμενον. αἶθε γὰρ εἶην  
ἀπροφάτως τότε σοῖσιν ἐφέστιος ἐν μεγάροισιν.'

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη, ἐλεεινὰ καταπροχέουσα παρειῶν  
δάκρυα· τὴν δ' ὄγε δῆθεν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν  
'Δαιμονίη, κενεὰς κέν ἔα πλάζεσθαι ἄλλας,  
ὥς δέ καὶ ἄγγελον ὄρνιν, ἐπεὶ μεταμῦνια βάζεις.  
εἰ δέ κεν ἦθεα κείνα καὶ Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἵκηαι,  
τιμήσσεα γυναιξὶ καὶ ἀνδράσιν αἰδοίῃ τε  
ἔσσεαι· οἱ δέ σε πάγχυ θεὸν ὥς πορσανέουσιν,  
οὐνεκα τῶν μὲν παῖδες ὑπότηροποι οἴκαδ' ἵκοντο  
σῇ βουλῇ, τῶν δ' αὖτε κασίγνητοί τε ἔται τε  
καὶ θαλεροὶ κακότητος ἄδην ἐσάωθεν ἀκοῖται.  
ἡμέτερον δὲ λέχος θαλάμοις ἐνὶ κουριδίοις  
πορσυνέεις· οὐδ' ἄμμε διακρινέει φιλόττητος  
ἄλλο, πάρος θάνατόν γε μεμορμένον ἀμφικαλύψαι.'

1129

1130

Ὡς φάτο· τῇ δ' ἔντοσθε κατεῖβeto θυμὸς ἀκουῇ,  
ἔμπης δ' ἔργ' αἰδέηλα κατερρίγησεν ἰδέσθαι.  
σχετλίη· οὐ μὲν δηρὸν ἀπαρνήσεσθαι ἔμελλεν  
Ἑλλάδα ναιετάειν. ὥς γὰρ τότε μῆδετο Ἥρη,  
ὄφρα κακὸν Περίη ἱερὴν ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ἵκοιτο  
Αἰαίη Μήδεια, λιποῦσ' ἀπο πατρίδα γαῖαν.

Ἦδη δ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ὀπιπεύουσαι ἄπωθεν  
σινγῇ ἀνιάζουσιν· ἐδεύετο δ' ἡματος ὥρη  
ἄψ οἰκόνδε νέεσθαι ἐὼν μετὰ μητέρα κούρην.  
ἢ δ' οὐπω κομιδῆς μιμνήσκετο, τέρπετο γάρ οἱ  
θυμὸς ὁμῶς μορφῇ τε καὶ αἰμυλίοισι λόγοισιν,  
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης πεφυλαγμένος ὀψέ περ ἠῦδα·  
'Ὡρη ἀποβλώσκειν, μὴ πρὶν φάος ἡελίοιο  
δύη ὑποφθάμενον, καὶ τις τὰ ἕκαστα νοήσῃ  
ὀθνεῖων· αὐτὶς δ' ἀβολήσομεν ἐνθαδ' ἰόντες.'

1140

# APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

πήχυνον δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα πέδῳ ἐνὶ βόθρον ὀρύξας  
 νήησε σχίζας, ἐπὶ δ' ἀρνείου τάμε λαιμόν,  
 αὐτόν τ' εὖ καθύπερθε τανύσσατο· δαίε δὲ φιτροὺς  
 πῦρ ὑπένερθεν ἰείς, ἐπὶ δὲ μυγάδας χέε λοιβίας,  
 Βριμὸν κικλήσκων Ἑκάτην ἐπαρωγὸν αἰέθλων.  
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἀγκαλέσας πάλιν ἔστιχεν· ἡ δ' αἴουσα  
 κευθμῶν ἐξ ὑπάτων δεινὴ θεὸς ἀντεβόλησεν  
 ἱροῖς Λίσονίδαο· πέριξ δέ μιν ἑστεφάνωντο  
 σμερδαλέοι δρυῖνοισι μετὰ πτόρθοισι δράκοντες·  
 στράπτε δ' ἀπειρέσιον δαΐδων σέλας· ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγῃ  
 ὀξεῖῃ ὑλακῇ χθόνιοι κύνες ἐφθέγγοντο.  
 πίσεια δ' ἔτρεμε πάντα κατὰ στίβον· αἱ δ' ὀλόλυξαν  
 νύμφαι ἐλειονόμοι ποταμνίδες, αἱ περὶ κείνῃν  
 Φάσιδος εἰαμένην Ἀμαραντίου εἰλίσσονται.  
 Λίσονίδην δ' ἦτοι μὲν ἔλεν δέος, ἀλλὰ μιν οὐδ' ὥς  
 ἐντροπαλιζόμενον πόδες ἔκφερον, ὅφρ' ἐτάροισιν  
 μίκτο κιῶν· ἦδη δὲ φῶς νιφύεντος ὑπερθεν  
 Καυκάσου ἠριγενῆς Ἡὼς βάλεν ἀντέλλουσα.

Καὶ τότε ἄρ' Αἰήτης περὶ μὲν στήθεσσιν ἔεστο  
 θώρηκα στάδιον, τὸν οἱ πόρεν ἐξεναρίξας  
 σφωιτέραις Φλεγραῖον Ἀρης ὑπὸ χερσὶ Μίμαντα·  
 χρυσεῖν δ' ἐπὶ κρατὶ κόρυν θέτο τετραφάλῃρον,  
 λαμπομένην οἷόν τε περίτροχον ἔπλετο φέγγος  
 ἡελίου, ὅτε πρῶτον ἀνέρχεται Ὠκεινοῖο.  
 ἂν δὲ πολύρρινον νῶμα σάκος, ἂν δὲ καὶ ἔγχος  
 δεινόν, ἀμαιμάκετον· τὸ μὲν οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ὑπέστη  
 ἀνδρῶν ἠρώων, ὅτε κάλλιπον Ἡρακλῆα  
 τῇλε παρέξ, ὃ κεν οἶος ἐναντίβιον πολέμιζεν.  
 τῷ δὲ καὶ ὠκυπόδων ἵππων εὐπηγέα δίφρον  
 ἔσχε πέλας Φαέθων ἐπιβήμεναι· ἂν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς  
 βῆσατο, ῥυτῆρας δὲ χεροῖν ἔχεν. ἐκ δὲ πόλῃος  
 ἤλασεν εὐρείαν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν, ὥς κεν αἰέθλω

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

a loving embrace. Then he dug a pit in the ground of a cubit's depth and heaped up billets of wood, and over it he cut the throat of the sheep, and duly placed the carcass above; and he kindled the logs placing fire beneath, and poured over them mingled libations, calling on Hecate Brimo to aid him in the contests. And when he had called on her he drew back; and she heard him, the dread goddess, from the uttermost depths and came to the sacrifice of Aeson's son; and round her horrible serpents twined themselves among the oak boughs; and there was a gleam of countless torches; and sharply howled around her the hounds of hell. All the meadows trembled at her step; and the nymphs that haunt the marsh and the river shrieked, all who dance round that mead of Amarantian Plaisis. And fear seized Aeson's son, but not even so did he turn round as his feet bore him forth, till he came back to his comrades; and now early dawn arose and shed her light above snowy Caucasus.

Then Aeetes arrayed his breast in the stiff corslet which Ares gave him when he had slain Phlegmæan Minas with his own hands; and upon his head he placed a golden helmet with four plumes, gleaming like the sun's round light when he first rises from Ocean. And he wielded his shield of many hides, and his spear, terrible, resistless; none of the heroes could have withstood its shock now that they had left behind Heracles far away, who alone could have met it in battle. For the king his well-fashioned chariot of swift steeds was held near at hand by Phaëthon, for him to mount; and he mounted, and held the reins in his hands. Then from the city he drove along the broad highway, that

μέλλον· ἀτὰρ κληῖσιν ἐπισχερῶ ἰδρυνθέντες  
ρίμφα μάλ' ἐς πεδῖον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἠπείγοντο.  
τόσσον δὲ προτέρω πέλεν ἄσπεος ἀντιπέρηθεν,  
ὅσσον τ' ἐκ βαλβίδος ἐπήβολος ἄρματι νύσσα  
γίγνεται, ὅππότε ἄεθλα καταφθιμένοιο ἀνακτος  
κηδεμόνες πεζοῖσι καὶ ἵππῃεσσι τίθενται.  
τέτμον δ' Αἰήτην τε καὶ ἄλλων ἔθνεα Κόλχων,  
τοὺς μὲν Καυκασίοισιν ἐφισταύτας σκοπέλοισιν,  
τὸν δ' αὐτοῦ παρὰ χεῖλος ἐλίσσόμενον ποταμοῖο.

1270

Αἰσονίδης δ', ὅτε δὴ πρυμνήσια δῆσαν ἑταῖροι,  
δὴ ῥα τότε ξὺν δουρὶ καὶ ἀσπίδι βαῖν' ἐς ἄεθλον,  
νῆος ἀποπροθορῶν ἄμυδις δ' ἔλε παμφανόωσαν  
χαλκείην πῆληκα θοῶν ἔμπλειον ὀδόντων  
καὶ ξίφος ἀμφ' ὤμοις, γυμνὸς δέμας, ἄλλα μὲν Ἀρει  
εἰκελος, ἄλλα δὲ πον χρυσαόρῳ Ἀπόλλωνι.  
παπτήνας δ' ἀνὰ νειὸν ἴδε ζυγὰ χάλκεα ταύρων  
αὐτόγυνόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον.  
χρίμψε δ' ἔπειτα κιών, παρὰ δ' ὄβριμον ἐγχος ἔ-  
πηξεν

1280

ὀρθὸν ἐπ' οὐριάχῳ, κυνέην δ' ἀποκάτθετ' ἐρείσας.  
βῆ δ' αὐτῇ προτέρωσε σὺν ἀσπίδι νήριτα ταύρων  
ἶχνια μαστεύων· οἱ δ' ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο  
κευθμῶνος χθοίου, ἵνα τέ σφισιν ἔσκε βόαυλα  
καρτερὰ λυγνύουσι περίξ ἐιλυμένα καπνῷ,  
ἄμφω ὁμοῦ προγένοντο πυρὸς σέλας ἀμπνεύοντες.  
ἔδδειςαν δ' ἦρωες, ὅπως ἴδον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῦσγε,  
εὖ διαβάς, ἐπιόντας, ἄτε σπιλὰς εἰν ἀλλὶ πέτρῃ  
μῖμνει ἀπειρεσίησι δονεύμενα κύματ' ἀέλλαις.  
πρόσθε δὲ οἱ σάκος ἔσχεν ἐναντίον· οἱ δὲ μιν ἄμφω  
μυκηθμῷ κρατεροῖσιν ἐνέπληξαν κέραεσσιν·  
οὐδ' ἄρα μιν τυτθὸν περ ἀνώχλισαν ἀντιώοντες.  
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ τρητοῖσιν εὐρρινοὶ χροάνοισιν

1290

### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

their benches they sped swiftly on to the plain of Ares. And it lay in front of them on the opposite side of the city, as far off as is the turning-post that a chariot must reach from the starting-point, when the kinsmen of a dead king appoint funeral games for footmen and horsemen. And they found Acetes and the tribes of the Colchians; these were stationed on the Caucasian heights, but the king by the winding brink of the river.

Now Aeson's son, as soon as his comrades had made the hawsers fast, leapt from the ship, and with spear and shield came forth to the contest; and at the same time he took the gleaming helmet of bronze filled with sharp teeth, and his sword girt round his shoulders, his body stripped, in somewise resembling Ares and in somewise Apollo of the golden sword. And gazing over the field he saw the bulls' yoke of bronze and near it the plough, all of one piece, of stubborn adamant. Then he came near, and fixed his sturdy spear upright on its butt, and taking his helmet off leant it against the spear. And he went forward with shield alone to examine the countless tracks of the bulls, and they from some unseen lair beneath the earth, where was their strong stading, wrapt in murky smoke, both rushed out together, breathing forth flaming fire. And sore afraid were the heroes at the sight. But Jason, setting wide his feet, withstood their onset, as in the sea a rocky reef withstands the waves tossed by the countless blasts. Then in front of him he held his shield; and both the bulls with loud bellowing attacked him with their mighty horns; nor did they stir him a jot by their onset. And as when through the holes of the furnace the armourers' bellows anon

φῦσαι χαλκήων ὅτε μὲν τ' ἀναμαρμαίρουσιν,  
 πῦρ ὀλοὸν πιμπρᾶσαι, ὅτ' αὖ λήγουσιν ἀντμῆς,  
 δεινὸς δ' ἐξ αὐτοῦ πέλεται βρόμος, ὅππότε' αἶξῃ  
 νεύοιεν· ὥς ἄρα τώγε βοὴν φλόγα φυσιόωντες  
 ἐκ στομάτων ὁμάδευν, τὸν δ' ἄμφεπε δῆιον αἶθος  
 βάλλον ἅτε στεροπῇ· κούρης δέ ἐ φάρμακ' ἔρυτο.  
 καὶ ῥ' ὄγε δεξιτεροῖο βοὸς κέρας ἄκρον ἐρύσας  
 εἶλκεν ἐπικρατέως παντὶ σθένει, ὅφρα πελάσση  
 ζεύγλῃ χαλκείῃ, τὸν δ' ἐν χθονὶ κάββαλεν ὀκλάξ,  
 ῥίμφα ποδὶ κρούσας πόδα χάλκεον. ὥς δὲ καὶ  
 ἄλλον

1300

σφῆλεν γυνὴ ἐπιόντα, μὴ βεβωλημένον ὄρμῃ.  
 εὐρύ δ' ἀποπροβαλὼν χαμάδις σάκος, ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα  
 τῇ καὶ τῇ βεβαῶς ἄμφω ἔχε πεπτηῶτας  
 γούνασιν ἐν προτέροισι, διὰ φλογὸς εἶθαρ  
 ἔλυσθεις.

1310

θαύμασε δ' Αἰήτης σθένος ἀνέρος. οἱ δ' ἄρα τείως  
 Τυνδαρίδαι—δὴ γάρ σφι πάλαι προπεφραδμένον  
 ἦεν—

ἀγχίμολον ζυγά οἱ πεδόθεν δόσαν ἀμφιβαλέσθαι.  
 αὐτὰρ ὁ εὖ ἐνέδησε λόφους· μεσσηγὺ δ' αἰέρας  
 χάλκεον ἱστοβοῆα, βοῇ συνάρασσε κορώνῃ  
 ζεύγλῃθην. καὶ τὰ μὲν ὑπὲρ πυρὸς ἀψ' ἐπὶ νῆα  
 χαλίσσθην. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αὖτις ἔλων σάκος ἔνθετο νότῳ  
 ἐξόπιθεν, καὶ γέντο βοῶν ἔμπλειον ὀδόντων  
 πῆληκα βριαρὴν δόρυ τ' ἄσχετον, ᾧ ῥ' ὑπὸ  
 μέσσης

1320

ἐργατίνης ὥς τίς τε Πελασγίδι νύσσειν ἀκαίνῃ  
 οὐτάζων λαγόνας· μάλα δ' ἔμπεδον εὖ ἀραρυῖαν  
 τυκτὴν ἐξ ἀδάμαντος ἐπιθύνεσκεν ἐχέτλην.

Οἱ δ' εἰς μὲν δὴ περιώσια θυμαίνεσκον,  
 λάβρον ἐπιπνεύοντε πυρὸς σέλας· ὥρτο δ' ἀντμῇ

ἄρπην εὐκαμπὴ νεοθηγέα χερσὶ μεμαρπῶς  
 ὤμον ἐπισπεύδων κείρει στάχυν, οὐδὲ βολῆσιν  
 μέμνει ἐς ὥραίνην τερσήμεναι ἡελίοιο·  
 ὥς τότε γηγενέων κείρε στάχυν. αἷματι δ' ὄλκοι  
 ἤνυτε κρηναῖαι ἀμάραι πλήθοντο ῥοῇσιν.  
 πίπτον δ', οἱ μὲν ὁδὰξ τετρηχότα βῶλον ἀρούρης<sup>1</sup>  
 λαζόμενοι πρηνεῖς, οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν, οἱ δ' ἐπ' ἀγοστῷ  
 καὶ πλευροῖς, κήτεσσι δομὴν ἀτάλαντοι ἰδέσθαι.  
 πολλοὶ δ' οὐτάμενοι, πρὶν ὑπὸ χθονὸς ἔχνος ἀεῖραι,  
 ὅσσον ἄνω προύτυψαν ἐς ἡέρα, τόσσον ἔραζε  
 βριθόμενοι πλαδαροῖσι καρήασιν ἡρήρειντο.  
 ἔρνεά που τοίως, Διὸς ἄσπετον ὀμβρήσαντος,  
 φυταλιῇ νεύθρεπτα κατημύουσιν ἔραζε  
 κλασθέντα ῥίζηθεν, ἀλωήων πόνος ἀνδρῶν  
 τὸν δὲ κατηφείη τε καὶ οὐλοὸν ἄλγος ἰκάνει  
 κλήρου σημαντῆρα φυτοτρόφον· ὥς τότε ἄνακτος  
 Διίταο βαρεῖαι ὑπὸ φρένας ἦλθον ἀνῖαι.  
 ἦγε δ' ἐς πτολίεθρον ὑπὸ τροπὸς ἄμμιγα Κόλχοις,  
 πορφύρων, ἣ κέ σφι θοώτερον ἀντιώφτο.  
 ἦμαρ ἔδυν, καὶ τῷ τετελεσμένος ἦεν αἶεθλος.

1300

1400

<sup>1</sup> ἀρούρης Hermann: ἰδοῖσιν MSS.



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

fields, seizes in his hand a curved sickle, newly sharpened, and hastily cuts the unripe crop, and waits not for it to be parched in due season by the beams of the sun; so at that time did Jason cut down the crop of the Earthborn; and the furrows were filled with blood, as the channels of a spring with water. And they fell, some on their faces biting the rough clod of earth with their teeth, some on their backs, and others on their hands and sides, like to sea-monsters to behold. And many, smitten before raising their feet from the earth, bowed down as far to the ground as they had risen to the air, and rested there with the damp of death on their brows. Even so, I ween, when Zeus has sent a measureless rain, new planted orchard-shoots droop to the ground, cut off by the root—the toil of gardening men; but heaviness of heart and deadly anguish come to the owner of the farm, who planted them; so at that time did bitter grief come upon the heart of King Aetes. And he went back to the city among the Colchians, pondering how he might most quickly oppose the heroes. And the day died, and Jason's contest was ended.

## SUMMARY OF BOOK IV

INVOCATION of the Muse (1-5).—Grief of Medea, who flies from the palace during the night and joins the Argonauts (6-91).—By the aid of Medea, Jason seizes and carries off the golden fleece, after which the Argonauts depart (92-211).—Pursued by the Colchians, they land in Paphlagonia, where Argus shows them the route to take (212-293).—The Argonauts sail up the Ister, by a branch of which they make their way into the Adriatic, where they find their progress barred by the Colchians, who had come by a shorter route (294-337).—Agreement between the Argonauts and the Colchians: Medea's reproaches to Jason (338-451).—Murder of Apsyrtus by Jason: the Colchians give up the pursuit (452-551).—The Argonauts sail along the Eridannus into the Rhone, and reach the abode of Circe in Italy (552-684).—Jason and Medea are purified by Circe: the Argonauts pass the isle of the Sirens, Scylla, Charybdis, and the Planctæ (685-981).—Arrival among the Phæacians: here other Colchians reclaim Medea, and, to prevent

## SUMMARY OF BOOK IV

*her surrender, her marriage with Jason is celebrated (982-1169).—Departure of the Argonauts, who are driven by a storm on to the Syrtes : they carry Argo on their shoulders to the Tritonian lake (1170-1484).—Deaths of Canthus and Mopsus (1485-1536).—The god Triton conducts Argo from the lake into the sea (1537-1637).—Episode of the giant Talos in Crete (1638-1693).—Arrival at the isle Anaphe : the dream of Euphemus, which is interpreted by Jason : arrival at Aegina and at Pagasae, the end of the voyage (1694-1781).*

## Δ

Λύτῃ νῦν κάματόν γε, θεά, καὶ δῆνεα κούρης  
 Κολχίδος ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, Διὸς τέκος. ἥ γὰρ ἔμοιγε  
 ἀμφασίῃ νόος ἔνδον ἐλίσσεται ὀρμαίνοντι,  
 ἥέ μιν αἴτης πῆμα δυσίμερον, ἥ τόγ' ἐνίσπω  
 φύζαν ἀεικελίην, ἣ κάλλιπεν ἔθνεα Κόλχων.

Ἦτοι ὁ μὲν δῆμοιο μετ' ἀνδράσιν, ὅσσοι ἄριστοι,  
 παννύχιος δόλον αἶπὺν ἐπὶ σφίσι μητιάσκειν  
 οἷσιν ἐνὶ μεγάροις, στυγερῶ ἐπὶ θυμὸν ἀέθλω  
 Αἰήτης ἄμοτον κεχολωμένος· οὐδ' ὄγε πάμπαν  
 θυγατέρων τάδε νόσφιν ἑὼν τελέεσθαι ἐώλπει.

10

Τῇ δ' ἀλεγεινότατον κραδίῃ φόβον ἔμβαλεν Ἡρῇ·  
 τρέσσειν δ', ἥντε τις κούφη κεμάς, ἦντε βαθείης  
 τάρφεσιν ἐν ξυλόχοιο κυνῶν ἐφόβησεν ὁμοκλή.  
 αὐτίκα γὰρ νημερτὲς ὀίσσατο, μή μιν ἀρωγὴν  
 ληθέμεν, αἶψα δὲ πᾶσαν ἀναπλήσειν κακότητα.  
 τάρβει δ' ἀμφιπόλους ἐπίστορας· ἐν δέ οἱ ὅσσε  
 πλῆτο πυρός, δεινὸν δὲ περιβρομέεσκον ἀκουαί.  
 πυκνὰ δὲ λαυκανίης ἐπεμάσσατο, πυκνὰ δὲ κουρὶξ  
 ἐλκομένη πλοκάμους γοερῇ βρυχήσατ' ἀνίη.  
 καὶ νύ κεν αὐτοῦ τῆμος ὑπὲρ μόρον ὤλετο κούρη,  
 φάρμακα πασσαμένη, Ἡρῆς δ' ἀλλώσε μενοινάς,  
 εἰ μή μιν Φρίξοιο θεὰ σὺν παισὶ φέβεσθαι

20

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

fluttering soul within her was comforted ; and then she poured from her bosom all the drugs back again into the casket. Then she kissed her bed, and the folding-doors on both sides, and stroked the walls, and tearing away in her hands a long tress of hair, she left it in the chamber for her mother, a memorial of her maidenhood, and thus lamented with passionate voice :

“ I go, leaving this long tress here in my stead, O mother mine ; take this farewell from me as I go far hence ; farewell Chalciope, and all my home. Would that the sea, stranger, had dashed thee to pieces, ere thou camest to the Colchian land ! ”

Thus she spake, and from her eyes shed copious tears. And as a bondmaid steals away from a wealthy house, whom fate has lately severed from her native land, nor yet has she made trial of grievous toil, but still unschooled to misery and shrinking in terror from slavish tasks, goes about beneath the cruel hands of a mistress ; even so the lovely maiden rushed forth from her home. But to her the bolts of the doors gave way self-moved, leaping backwards at the swift strains of her magic song. And with bare feet she sped along the narrow paths, with her left hand holding her robe over her brow to veil her face and fair cheeks, and with her right lifting up the hem of her tunic. Quickly along the dark track, outside the towers of the spacious city, did she come in fear ; nor did any of the warders note her, but she sped on unseen by them. Thence she was minded to go to the temple ; for well she knew the way, having often aforetime wandered there in quest of corpses and

ἀμφί τε δυσπαλέας ρίζας χθονός, οἷα γυναῖκες  
 φαρμακίδες· τρομερῶ δ' ὑπὸ δείματι πάλλετο θυμός.  
 τὴν δὲ νέον Τιτηνὺς ἀνερχομένη περάττηθεν  
 φοιταλέην ἐσιδοῦσα θεὰ ἐπεχήρατο Μῆνη  
 ἀρπαλέως, καὶ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ἦσιν εἶπεν·

‘Οὐκ ἄρ' ἐγὼ μούνη μετὰ Λάτμιον ἄντρον ἀλύσκω,  
 οὐδ' οἷη καλῶ περιδαίομαι Ἐνδυμίωνι·  
 ἢ θαμὰ δὴ καὶ σεῖο κίον δολίσσιν ἀοιδαῖς,  
 μνησαμένη φιλότῃτος, ἵνα σκοτίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτὶ  
 φαρμάσσης εὐκῆλος, ἃ τοι φίλα ἔργα τέτυκται.  
 νῦν δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ δῆθεν ὁμοίης ἔμμορες ἄτης·  
 δῶκε δ' ἀνιηρόν τοι Ἰήσωνα πῆμα γενέσθαι  
 δαίμων ἀλγινόεις. ἀλλ' ἔρχεο, τέτλαθι δ' ἔμπης  
 καὶ πινυτὴ περ ἐοῦσα, πολύστονον ἄλγος ἀείρειν.’

Ὡς ἄρ' εἶπεν· τὴν δ' αἰψὰ πόδες φέρον ἐγκονέου-  
 σαν.

ἀσπασίως δ' ὄχθησιν ἐπηέρθη ποταμοῖο,  
 ἀντιπέρην λεύσσουσα πυρὸς σέλας, ὃ ρά τ' ἀέθλου  
 παννύχιοι ἥρωες εὐφροσύνησιν ἔδαιον.  
 ὀξείῃ δ' ἤπειτα διὰ κνέφας ὄρθια φωνῇ  
 ὀπλότατον Φρίξοιο περαιόθεν ἤπνε παίδων,  
 Φρόντιν· ὃ δὲ ξὺν ἐοῖσι κασιγνήτοις ὅπα κούρης  
 αὐτῷ τ' Αἰσονίδῃ τεκμήρατο· σῦγα δ' ἑταῖροι  
 θάμβεον, εὐτ' ἐνόησαν ὃ δὴ καὶ ἐτήτυμον ἦεν.  
 τρὶς μὲν ἀνήυσεν, τρὶς δ' ὀτρύνοντος ὁμίλου  
 Φρόντις ἀμοιβήδην ἀντίαχεν. οἱ δ' ἄρα τείως  
 ἥρωες μετὰ τήνγε θοοῖς ἐλάσκον ἔρετμοῖς.  
 οὐπὼ πείσματα νηὸς ἐπ' ἠπείροιο περαίης  
 βάλλον, ὃ δὲ κραιπνοὺς χέρσῃ πόδας ἤκεν Ἰήσων  
 ὑψοῦ ἀπ' ἰκριόφιν· μετὰ δὲ Φρόντις τε καὶ Ἄργος,

νῆε δ' ὤω Φρίξου, χαμάδις θόρον· ἢ δ' ἄρα τούσγε  
γούνων ἀμφοτέρησι περισχομένη προσέειπεν·

“Ἐκ με, φίλοι, ῥύσασθε δυσάμμορον, ὧς δὲ καὶ  
αὐτοὺς

ὑμέας Αἰήταο, πρὸ γάρ τ' ἀναφανδὰ τέτυκται  
πάντα μάλ', οὐδέ τι μῆχος ἰκάνεται. ἀλλ' ἐπὶ νηὶ  
φεύγωμεν, πρὶν τόνδε βοῶν ἐπιβήμεναι ἵππων.  
δώσω δὲ χρύσειον ἐγὼ δέρος, εὐνήσασα  
φρουρὸν ὄφιν· τῆνι δὲ θεοὺς ἐνὶ σοῖσιν ἐταίροις,  
ξεῖνε, τεῶν μύθων ἐπίστορας, οὓς μοι ὑπέστης,  
ποίησαι· μὴδ' ἔνθεν ἐκαστέρω ὀρμηθεῖσαν  
χήτει κηδεμόνων ὀνοτὴν καὶ ἀεικέα θείης.”

90

Ἴσκειν ἀκηχεμένη· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰσονίδαο  
γήθεον· αἶψα δέ μιν περὶ γούνασι πεπτηνίαν  
ἦκ' ἀναειρόμενος προσπτύξατο, θάρσυνέν τε·  
“Δαιμονίη, Ζεὺς αὐτὸς Ὀλύμπιος ὄρκιος ἔστω,  
“Ἡρῃ τε Ζυγίῃ, Διὸς εὐνέτις, ἣ μὲν ἐμοῖσιν  
κουριδίην σε δόμοισιν ἐνιστήσεσθαι ἄκοιτιν,  
εὐτ' ἂν ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκώμεθα νοστήσαντες.”

“Ὡς ἡὔδα, καὶ χεῖρα παρασχεδὼν ἤραρε χεὶρὶ  
δεξιτερήν· ἢ δέ σφιν ἐς ἱερὸν ἄλσος ἀνώγει  
νῆα βοὴν ἐλάαν αὐτοσχεδόν, ὅφρ' ἔτι νύκτωρ  
κῶας ἐλόντες ἄγοιντο παρὲκ νόον Αἰήταο.  
ἔνθ' ἔπος ἠδὲ καὶ ἔργον ὁμοῦ πέλεν ἐσσυμένοισιν.  
εἰς γάρ μιν βῆσαντες, ἀπὸ χθονὸς αὐτίκ' ἔωσαν  
νῆα· πολὺς δ' ὀρυμαγδὸς ἐπείγομένων ἐλάττησιν  
ἦεν ἀριστήων· ἢ δ' ἔμπαλιν αἰσσοῦσα  
γαίῃ χεῖρας ἔτεινεν ἀμήχανος. αὐτὰρ Ἴήσων  
θάρσυνέν τ' ἐπέεσσι, καὶ ἰσχανεν ἀσχαλώωσαν.

100

Ἦμος δ' ἀνέρες ὕπνον ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἐβάλοντο  
ἀγρόται, οἷτε κύνεσσι πεποιθότες οὔποτε νύκτα

110

ὄσση δὲ ῥινὸς βοὸς ἡνίος ἢ ἐλάφοιο  
 γίνεταί, ἦντ' ἀγρῶσται ἀχαιινὴν καλέουσιν,  
 τόσσον ἔην πάντῃ χρύσειον ἐφύπερθεν ἄωτον.  
 βεβρίθει λίγνεσσιν ἐπηρεφές· ἡλιθα δὲ χθῶν  
 αἰὲν ὑποπρὸ ποδῶν ἀμαρύσσετο νισσομένοιο.  
 ἦε δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν λαιῷ ἐπιειμένος ὦμφ  
 αὐχένος ἐξ ὑπάτοιο ποδηνεκές, ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε  
 εἴλει ἀφασσόμενος· περὶ γὰρ δίεν, ὄφρα ἔ μή τις  
 ἀνδρῶν ἢ θεῶν νοσφίσσεται ἀντιβολήσας.

180

Ἦὼς μὲν ῥ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἐκίδνατο, τοὶ δ' ἐς ὄμιλον  
 ἴξον. θάμβησαν δὲ νέοι μέγα κῶας ἰδόντες  
 λαμπόμενον στεροπῇ ἴκελον Διός. ὦρτο δ' ἕκαστος  
 ψαῦσαι ἐελδόμενος δέχθαι τ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἔησιν.  
 Αἰσονίδης δ' ἄλλους μὲν ἐρήτυε, τῷ δ' ἐπὶ φᾶρος  
 κάββαλε νηγάτεον· πρύμνῃ δ' ἐνεείσατο κούρην  
 ἀνθέμενος, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος μετὰ πᾶσιν ἔειπεν·

ἸΜΗΚΕΤΙ νῦν χάζεσθε, φίλοι, πάτρηνδε νέεσθαι. 190  
 ἦδη γὰρ χρειῶ, τῆς εἵνεκα τήνδ' ἀλεγεινὴν  
 ναυτιλίην ἔτλημεν οἰζύνι μοχθίζοντες,  
 εὐπαλέως κούρης ὑπὸ δήνεσι κεκράανται.  
 τὴν μὲν ἐγὼν ἐθέλουσαν ἀνάξομαι οἴκαδ' ἄκοιτιν  
 κουριδίην· ἀτὰρ ὑμεῖς Ἀχαιῖδος οἴά τε πάσης  
 αὐτῶν θ' ὑμείων ἐσθλὴν ἐπαρωγὸν ἐοῦσαν  
 σώετε. δὴ γάρ που, μάλ' οἶομαι, εἰσιν ἐρύξων  
 Αἰήτης ὁμάδῳ πόντονδ' ἴμεν ἐκ ποταμοῖο.  
 ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν διὰ νηός, ἀμοιβαδὶς ἀνέρος ἀνὴρ  
 ἐξόμενος, πηδοῖσιν ἐρέσσετε· τοὶ δὲ βοείας  
 ἀσπίδας ἡμίσεις, δῆων θοὸν ἔχμα βολάων,  
 προσχόμενοι νύστῳ ἐπαμύνετε. νῦν δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν  
 παῖδας ἐοὺς πάτρην τε φίλην, γεραροὺς τε τοκῆας

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## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

great as is the hide of a yearling ox or stag, which hunters call a brocket, so great in extent was the fleece all golden above. Heavy it was, thickly clustered with flocks; and as he moved along, even beneath his feet the sheen rose up from the earth. And he strode on now with the fleece covering his left shoulder from the height of his neck to his feet, and now again he gathered it up in his hands; for he feared exceedingly, lest some god or man should meet him and deprive him thereof.

Dawn was spreading over the earth when they reached the throng of heroes; and the youths marvelled to behold the mighty fleece, which gleamed like the lightning of Zeus. And each one started up eager to touch it and clasp it in his hands. But the son of Aeson restrained them all, and threw over it a mantle newly-woven; and he led the maiden to the stern and seated her there, and spake to them all as follows:

"No longer now, my friends, forbear to return to your fatherland. For now the task for which we dared this grievous voyage, toiling with bitter sorrow of heart, has been lightly fulfilled by the maiden's counsels. Her—for such is her will—I will bring home to be my wedded wife; do ye preserve her, the glorious saviour of all Achaëa and of yourselves. For of a surety, I ween, will Aeetes come with his host to bar our passage from the river into the sea. But do some of you toil at the oars in turn, sitting man by man; and half of you raise your shields of oxhide, a ready defence against the darts of the enemy, and guard our return. And now in our hands we hold the fate of our children and dear country and of our aged parents; and on our venture

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all Hellas depends, to reap either the shame of failure or great renown."

Thus he spake, and donned his armour of war; and they cried aloud, wondrously eager. And he drew his sword from the sheath and cut the hawsers at the stern. And near the maiden he took his stand ready armed by the steersman Ancaeus, and with their rowing the ship sped on as they strained desperately to drive her clear of the river.

By this time Medea's love and deeds had become known to haughty Aetes and to all the Colchians. And they thronged to the assembly in arms; and countless as the waves of the stormy sea when they rise crested by the wind, or as the leaves that fall to the ground from the wood with its myriad branches in the month when the leaves fall—who could reckon their tale?—so they in countless number poured along the banks of the river shouting in frenzy; and in his shapely chariot Aetes shone forth above all with his steeds, the gift of Helios, swift as the blasts of the wind. In his left hand he raised his curved shield, and in his right a huge pine-torch, and near him in front stood up his mighty spear. And Apsyrtus held in his hands the reins of the steeds. But already the ship was cleaving the sea before her, urged on by stalwart oarsmen, and the stream of the mighty river rushing down. But the king in grievous anguish lifted his hands and called on Helios and Zeus to bear witness to their evil deeds; and terrible threats he uttered against all his people, that unless they should with their own hands seize the maiden, either on the land or still finding the ship on the swell of

# APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ἄξουσιν, καὶ θυμὸν ἐνιπλήσει μενεαίνων  
 τίσασθαι τάδε πάντα, δαήσονται κεφαλῇσιν  
 πάντα χόλον καὶ πᾶσαν ἐὴν ὑποδέγμενοι ἄτην.

Ὡς ἔφατ' Αἰήτης· αὐτῷ δ' ἐνὶ ἡματι Κόλχοι  
 νηὶς τ' εἰρύσαντο, καὶ ἄρμενα νηυσὶ βάλλοντο,  
 αὐτῷ δ' ἡματι πόντον ἀνήμιον· οὐδέ κε φαίης  
 τόσσον νηίτην στόλον ἔμμεναι, ἀλλ' οἰωνῶν  
 ἰλαδὸν ἄσπετον ἔθνος ἐπιβρομέειν πελάγεσσιν.

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Οἱ δ' ἀνέμου λαιψήρᾳ θεᾶς βουλῇσιν ἀέντος  
 Ἥρης, ὅφρ' ὤκιστα κακὸν Πελῖας δόμοισιν  
 Αἰαΐη Μήδεια Πελασγίδα γαῖαν ἵκηται,  
 ἧοι ἐνὶ τριτάτῃ πρυμνήσια νηὸς ἔδησαν  
 Παφλαγόνων ἀκτῇσι, πάροιθ' Ἄλως ποταμοῖο.  
 ἢ γαίρ σφ' ἐξαποβιάντας ἀρέσσασθαι θυέεσσιν  
 ἠνώγει Ἑκάτην. καὶ δὴ τὰ μέν, ὅσσα θυηλὴν  
 κούρη πορσανέουσα τιτύσκετο, μήτε τις ἴστωρ  
 εἴη, μήτ' ἐμὲ θυμὸς ἐποτρύνειεν ἀεΐδειν.

ἄζομαι αὐδῆσαι· τό γε μὴν ἔδος ἐξέτι κείνου,  
 ὃ ῥα θεῇ ἥρωες ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖσιν ἔδειμαν,  
 ἀνδράσιν ὀψιγόνουσι μένει καὶ τῆμος ιδέσθαι.

250

Λυτικά δ' Αἰσονίδης ἐμνήσατο, σὺν δὲ καὶ ὄλλοι  
 ἥρωες, Φινῆος, ὃ δὴ πλόον ἄλλον ἔειπεν  
 ἐξ Αἴης ἔσσεσθαι· ἀνώιστος δ' ἐτέτυκτο  
 πᾶσιν ὁμῶς. Ἄργος δὲ λιλαιομένοις ἀγόρευσεν·

Ἕνισσόμεθ' Ὀρχομενὸν τὴν ἔχραεν ὕμμι περῆσαι  
 νημερτῆς ὁδε μάντις, ὅτῳ ξυνέβητε πάροιθεν.  
 ἔστιν γὰρ πλόος ἄλλος, ὃν ἀθανάτων ἱερῆς  
 πέφραδον, οἱ Θήβης Τριτωνίδος ἐκγεγάασιν.  
 οὐπω τείρεα πάντα, τά τ' οὐρανῷ εἰλίσσονται,  
 οὐδέ τί πω Δαναῶν ἱερὸν γένος ἦεν ἀκοῦσαι

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## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the open sea, and bring her back, that so he might satisfy his eager soul with vengeance for all those deeds, at the cost of their own lives they should learn and abide all his rage and revenge.

Thus spake Aectes; and on that same day the Colchians launched their ships and cast the tackle on board, and on that same day sailed forth on the sea; thou wouldst not say so mighty a host was a fleet of ships, but that a countless flight of birds, swarin on swarm, was clamouring over the sea.

Swiftly the wind blew, as the goddess Hera planned, so that most quickly Aeacan Medea might reach the Pelasgian land, a bane to the house of Pelias, and on the third morn they bound the ship's stern cables to the shores of the Paphlagonians, at the mouth of the river Halys. For Medea bade them land and propitiate Hecate with sacrifice. Now all that the maiden prepared for offering the sacrifice may no man know, and may my soul not urge me to sing thereof. Awe restrains my lips, yet from that time the altar which the heroes raised on the beach to the goddess remains till now, a sight to men of a later day.

And straightway Aeson's son and the rest of the heroes bethought them of Phineus, how that he had said that their course from Aea should be different, but to all alike his meaning was dim. Then Argus spake, and they eagerly hearkened:

"We go to Orchomenus, whither that unerring seer, whom ye met aforetime, foretold your voyage. For there is another course, signified by those priests of the immortal gods, who have sprung from Tritonian Thebes. As yet all the stars that wheel in the heaven were not, nor yet, though one should inquire, could aught be heard of the sacred

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

south into a deep gulf that bends upwards from the Trinacrian sea, that sea which lies along your land, if indeed Achelous flows forth from your land."

Thus he spake, and to them the goddess granted a happy portent, and all at the sight shouted approval, that this was their appointed path. For before them appeared a trail of heavenly light, a sign where they might pass. And gladly they left behind there the son of Lycus and with canvas outspread sailed over the sea, with their eyes on the Paphlagonian mountains. But they did not round Carambis, for the winds and the gleam of the heavenly fire stayed with them till they reached Ister's mighty stream.

Now some of the Colchians, in a vain search, passed out from Pontus through the Cyanean rocks; but the rest went to the river, and them Apsyrtus led, and, turning aside, he entered the mouth called Fair. Wherefore he outstripped the heroes by crossing a neck of land into the furthest gulf of the Ionian sea. For a certain island is enclosed by Ister, by name Peuce, three-cornered, its base stretching along the coast, and with a sharp angle towards the river; and round it the outfall is cleft in two. One mouth they call the mouth of Narex, and the other, at the lower end, the Fair mouth. And through this Apsyrtus and his Colchians rushed with all speed; but the heroes went upwards far away towards the highest part of the island. And in the meadows the country shepherds left their countless flocks for dread of the ships, for they deemed that they were beasts coming forth from the monster-teeming sea. For never yet before had they seen seafaring ships, neither the Scythians mingled with the Thracians, nor the

οὐτ' οὖν Γραυκένιοι, οὐθ' οἱ περὶ Λαύριον ἤδη  
 Σινδοὶ ἐρημαῖον πεδίον μέγα ναιετάοντες.  
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τ' Ἀγγοῦρον ὄρος, καὶ ἄπωθεν ἔοντα  
 Ἀγγοῦρου ὄρεος σκόπελον πάρα Κανλιακοῖο,<sup>1</sup>  
 ᾧ περὶ δὴ σχίζων Ἴστρος ῥέον ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα  
 βάλλει ἁλός, πεδίον τε τὸ Λαύριον ἡμίψαντο,  
 δὴ ῥα τότε Κρονίην Κόλχοι ἅλαδ' ἐκπρομολόντες  
 πάντη, μὴ σφε λάθοιεν, ὑπετμήξαντο κελεύθους.  
 οἱ δ' ὅπιθεν ποταμοῖο κατήλυθον, ἐκ δ' ἐπέρησαν  
 δοιὰς Ἀρτέμιδος Βρυγηίδας ἀγχόθι νήσους.  
 τῶν δ' ἦτοι ἐτέρη μὲν ἐν ἱερὸν ἔσκεν ἔδεθλον  
 ἐν δ' ἐτέρη, πληθύν πεφυλαγμένοι Ἀψύρτοιο,  
 βαῖνον· ἐπεὶ κείνας πολέων λίπον ἔνδοθι νήσους  
 αὐτῶς, ἀζόμενοι κούρην Διός· αἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι  
 στενωόμεναι Κόλχοισι πόρους εἴρυντο θαλάσσης.  
 ὥς δὲ καὶ εἰς ἄλλας<sup>2</sup> πληθύν λίπον ἀγχόθι νήσους  
 μέσφα Σαλαγγῶνος ποταμοῦ καὶ Νέστιδος αἴης.  
 Ἐνθα κε λευγαλὴ Μινύαι τότε δημοτῆτι  
 παυρότεροι πλεόνεσσιν ὑπείκαθον· ἀλλὰ πάροιθεν  
 συνθεσίην, μέγα νεῖκος ἀλευάμενοι, ἐτάμοντο·  
 κῶας μὲν χρύσειον, ἐπεὶ σφισιν αὐτὸς ὑπέστη  
 Αἰήτης, εἰ κείνοι ἀναπλήσειαν ἀέθλους,  
 ἔμπεδον εὐδικίῃ σφέας ἐξέμεν, εἴτε δόλοισιν,  
 εἴτε καὶ ἀμφαδίην αὐτῶς ἀέκοντος ἀπηύρων·  
 αὐτὰρ Μῆδειάν γε—τὸ γὰρ πέλεν ἀμφήριστον—  
 παρθέσθαι κούρῃ Λητωίδι νόσφιν ὁμίλου,  
 εἰσόκε τις δικάσῃσι θεμιστοῦχων βασιλῆων,  
 εἴτε μιν εἰς πατρὸς χρεῖω δόμον αὐτὶς ἰκάνειν,  
 εἴτε μεθ' Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἀριστήεσσιν ἔπεσθαι.

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<sup>1</sup> Κανλιακοῖο L by correction, and a variant in scholia;  
 see also Steph. Byz. under Κανλικεῖ: Κανκασιοῖο LG.

<sup>2</sup> ἀετὰς two inferior MSS.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

prince is no longer with them, who is thy champion and thy brother; nor will I shrink from matching myself in fight with the Colchians, if they bar my way homeward."

Thus he spake soothing her; and she uttered a deadly speech: "Take heed now. For when sorry deeds are done we must needs devise sorry counsel, since at first I was distraught by my error, and by heaven's will it was I wrought the accomplishment of evil desires. Do thou in the turmoil shield me from the Colchians' spears; and I will beguile Apsyrtus to come into thy hands—do thou greet him with splendid gifts—if only I could persuade the heralds on their departure to bring him alone to hearken to my words. Thereupon if this deed pleases thee, slay him and raise a conflict with the Colchians, I care not."

So they two agreed and prepared a great web of guile for Apsyrtus, and provided many gifts such as are due to guests, and among them gave a sacred robe of Hypsipyle, of crimson hue. The Graces with their own hands had wrought it for Dionysus in sea-girt Dia, and he gave it to his son Thoas thereafter, and Thoas left it to Hypsipyle, and she gave that fair-wrought guest-gift with many another marvel to Aeson's son to wear. Never couldst thou satisfy thy sweet desire by touching it or gazing on it. And from it a divine fragrance breathed from the time when the king of Nysa himself lay to rest thereon, flushed with wine and nectar, as he clasped the beauteous breast of the maiden-daughter of Minos, whom once Theseus forsook in the island of Dia, when she had followed him from Knossus. And when she had worked upon the

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heralds to induce her brother to come, as soon as she reached the temple of the goddess, according to the agreement, and the darkness of night surrounded them, that so she might devise with him a cunning plan for her to take the mighty fleece of gold and return to the home of Aetes, for, she said, the sons of Phrixus had given her by force to the strangers to carry off; with such beguiling words she scattered to the air and the breezes her witching charins, which even from afar would have drawn down the savage beast from the steep mountain-height.

Ruthless Love, great bane, great curse to mankind, from thee come deadly strifes and lamentations and groans, and countless pains as well have their stormy birth from thee. Arise, thou god, and arm thyself against the sons of our foes in such guise as when thou didst fill Medea's heart with accursed madness. How then by evil doom did she slay Apsyrtus when he came to meet her? For that must our song tell next.

When the heroes had left the maiden on the island of Artemis, according to the covenant, both sides ran their ships to land separately. And Jason went to the ambush to lie in wait for Apsyrtus and then for his comrades. But he, beguiled by these dire promises, crossed the swell of the sea in his ship, and in the darkness of night set foot on the sacred island; and faring all alone to meet her he made trial in speech of his sister, as a tender child tries a wintry torrent which not even strong men can pass through, to see if she would devise some guile against the strangers. And so they two agreed together on everything; and straightway Aeson's



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γυμνὸν ἀνασχόμενος παλάμη ξίφος· αἶψα δὲ κούρη  
 ἔμπαλιν ὄμματ' ἐνεικε, καλυψαμένη ὀθόνησιν,  
 μὴ φόνον ἀθρήσειε κασιγνήτοιο τυπέντος.  
 τὸν δ' ὄγε, βουτύπος ὥστε μέγαν κερεαλκέα ταῦρον,  
 πλῆξεν ὀπιπεύσας νηοῦ σχεδόν, ὃν ποτ' ἔδειμαν  
 Ἀρτέμιδι Βρυγοὶ περυναίεται ἀντιπέρηθεν. 470  
 τοῦ δ' ὅγ' ἐνὶ προδόμῳ γυνὴ ἤριπε· λοίσθια δ' ἦρως  
 θυμὸν ἀναπνεύων χερσὶν μέλαν ἀμφοτέρησιν  
 αἶμα κατ' ὠτειλὴν ὑποίσχετο· τῆς δὲ καλύπτρην  
 ἀργυφένην καὶ πέπλον ἀλευομένης ἐρύθηνεν.  
 ὁξὺ δὲ πανδαμάτωρ λοξῷ ἶδεν οἶον ἔρεξαν  
 ὄμματι νηλεῆς ὀλοφώϊον ἔργον Ἑρινύς.  
 ἦρως δ' Αἰσονίδης ἐξάργματά τάμνε θανόντος,  
 τρὶς δ' ἀπέλειξε φόνου, τρὶς δ' ἐξ ἄγος ἔπτυσ'  
 ὀδόντων,

ἢ θέμις αὐθέντησι δολοκτασίας ἰλῑεσθαι.

ἕγρον δ' ἐν γαίῃ κρύψεν νέκυν, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ 480  
 κείται ὅστέα κείνα μετ' ἀνδράσιν Ἀψυρτεῦσιν.

Οἱ δ' ἄμνδις πυρσοῖο σέλας προπάροιθεν ἰδόντες,  
 τό σφιν παρθενικὴ τέκμαρ μετιοῦσιν ἄειρεν,  
 Κολχίδος ἀγχόθι νηὸς ἐὼν παρὰ νῆα βάλλοντο  
 ἦρως· Κόλχον δ' ὄλεκον στόλον, ἥτε κίρκοι  
 φύλα πελειάων, ἢ μέγα πῶν λέοντες  
 ἀγρότεροι κλονέουσιν ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσι θορόντες.  
 οὐδ' ἄρα τις κείνων θάνατον φύγε, πάντα δ' ὄμιλον  
 πῦρ ἄτε δηιόωντες ἐπέδραμον· ὁψὲ δ' Ἰήσων  
 ἦντησεν, μεμαῶς ἐπαμυνόμεν οὐ μάλ' ἀρωγῆς 490  
 δευομένοις· ἤδη δὲ καὶ ἀμφ' αὐτοῖο μέλοντο.  
 ἔνθα δὲ ναυτιλίας πυκινὴν περὶ μητιάασκον

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to the land of the Hylleans. For the islands lay thick in the river and made the path dangerous for those who sailed thereby. Nor, as aforetime, did the Hylleans devise their hurt, but of their own accord furthered their passage, winning as guerdon a mighty tripod of Apollo. For tripods twain had Phoebus given to Aeson's son to carry afar in the voyage he had to make, at the time when he went to sacred Pytho to enquire about this very voyage; and it was ordained by fate that in whatever land they should be placed, that land should never be ravaged by the attacks of foemen. Therefore even now this tripod is hidden in that land near the pleasant city of Hyllus, far beneath the earth, that it may ever be unseen by mortals. Yet they found not King Hyllus still alive in the land, whom fair Melite bare to Heracles in the land of the Phacacians. For he came to the abode of Nausithous and to Macris, the nurse of Dionysus, to cleanse himself from the deadly murder of his children; here he loved and overcame the water nymph Melite, the daughter of the river Aegæus, and she bare mighty Hyllus. But when he had grown up he desired not to dwell in that island under the rule of Nausithous the king; but he collected a host of native Phacacians and came to the Cronian sea; for the hero King Nausithous aided his journey, and there he settled, and the Mentores slew him as he was fighting for the oxen of his field.

Now, goddesses, say how it is that beyond this sea, near the land of Ausonia and the Ligystian isles, which are called Stoechades, the mighty tracks of the ship *Argo* are clearly sung of? What great

νημερτὲς πέφαται· τίς ἀπόπροθι τόσσον ἀνάγκη  
καὶ χρειώ σφ' ἐκόμισσε· τίνες σφέας ἤγαγον αὔραι;

Αὐτὸν που μεγαλωστὶ δεδοπότης Ἀψύρτοιο  
Ζῆνα, θεῶν βασιλῆα, χόλος λάβεν, οἶον ἔρεξαν.  
Λαίης δ' ὅλοον τεκμήρατο δῆνεσι Κίρκης  
αἶμ' ἀπονιψαμένους, πρό τε μυρία πημανθέντας, 560  
νοστήσειν. τὸ μὲν οὔτις ἀριστήων ἐνόησεν

ἄλλ' ἔθεον γαίης Ἑλληίδος ἐξανιόντες  
τηλόθι· τὰς δ' ἀπέλειπον, ὅσαι Κόλχοισι πάροιθεν  
ἐξείης πλήθοντο Λιβυρινίδες εἰν ἄλλ' νῆσοι,

Ἵσσα τε Δυσκέλαδός τε καὶ ἱμερτὴ Πιτύεια.  
αὐτὰρ ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ τῇσι παραὶ Κέρκυραν ἵκοντο,  
ἔνθα Ποσειδάων Ἀσωπίδα νάσσατο κούρην,  
ἠύκομον Κέρκυραν, ἐκὰς Φλιουντίδος αἴης,  
ἄρπάζας ὑπ' ἔρωτι· μελαινομένην δέ μιν ἄνδρες  
ναυτίλοι ἐκ πόντοιο κελαινῇ πάντοθεν ὕλη 570  
δερκόμενοι Κέρκυραν ἐπικλείουσι Μέλαιναν.

τῇ δ' ἐπὶ καὶ Μελίτην, λιαρῷ περιγηθέες οὖρῳ,  
αἰπεινὴν τε Κερωσσόν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν εὐόσαν  
Νυμφαίην παράμειβον, ἵνα κρείουσα Καλυψὼ  
Ἀτλαντὶς ναίεσκε· τὰ δ' ἡρωειδέα λεύσσειν  
οὔρεα δοιάζοντο Κεραύνια. καὶ τότε βουλὰς  
ἀμφ' αὐτοῖς Ζηνός τε μέγαν χόλον ἐφράσαθ' Ἥρη.

μηδομένη δ' ἄνυσιν τοῖο πλοοῦ, ὥρσεν ἀέλλας  
ἀντικρύ, ταῖς αἰτῖς ἀναρπάγδην φορέοντο  
νῆσου ἐπὶ κραναῆς Ἥλεκτρίδος. αὐτίκα δ' ἄφνω 580  
ἴαχεν ἀνδρομέη ἐνοπῇ μεσσηγὺ θεόντων  
αὐδῆεν γλαφυρῆς νηὸς δόρυ, τό ρ' ἀνὰ μέσσην  
στεῖραν Ἀθηναίη Δωδωνίδος ἤρμοσε φηγοῦ.  
τοὺς δ' ὅλοον μεσσηγὺ δέος λάβεν εἰσαίοντας  
φθογγὴν τε Ζηνός τε βαρὺν χόλον. οὐ γὰρ ἀλύξειν

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

constraint and need brought the heroes so far?  
What breezes wafted them?

When Apsyrtus had fallen in mighty overthrow  
Zeus himself, king of gods, was seized with  
wrath at what they had done. And he ordained  
that by the counsels of Aeacan Circe they should  
cleansc themselves from the terrible stain of blood  
and suffer countless woes before their return. Yet  
none of the chieftains knew this; but far onward they  
sped starting from the Hyllean land, and they left  
behind all the islands that were beforetime thronged  
by the Colchians—the Liburnian isles, isle after  
isle, Issa, Dysecladus, and lovely Pityeia. Next  
after them they came to Coreyra, where Poseidon  
settled the daughter of Asopus, fair-haired Coreyra,  
far from the land of Phlius, whence he had carried  
her off through love; and sailors beholding it from  
the sea, all black with its sombre woods, call it  
Coreyra the Black. And next they passed Melite,  
rejoicing in the soft-blowing breeze, and steep  
Cerossus, and Nymphaea at a distance, where lady  
Calypso, daughter of Atlas, dwelt; and they deemed  
they saw the misty mountains of Thunder. And  
then Hera bethought her of the counsels and wrath  
of Zeus concerning them. And she devised an  
ending of their voyage and stirred up storm-winds  
before them, by which they were caught and borne  
back to the rocky isle of Electra. And straightway  
on a sudden there called to them in the midst of  
their course, speaking with a human voice, the beam  
of the hollow ship, which Athena had set in the  
centre of the stem, made of Dodonian oak. And  
deadly fear seized them as they heard the voice  
that told of the grievous wrath of Zeus. For it

ἔννεπεν οὔτε πόρους δολιχῆς ἁλός, οὔτε θυέλλας  
ἀργαλέας, ὅτε μὴ Κίρκη φόνον Ἀψύρτοιο  
νηλέα νέψειεν· Πολυδεύκεα δ' εὐχετάασθαι  
Κίστορά τ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖς ἤνωγε κελεύθους  
Αὔσονις ἔμπροσθε πορεῖν ἁλός, ἥ ἔνι Κίρκην  
δῆουσιν, Πέρσης τε καὶ Ἑελίοιο θύγατρα.

590

Ὡς Ἀργῶ ἰάχησεν ὑπὸ κνέφας· οἱ δ' ἀνόρουσαν  
Τυνδαρίδαι, καὶ χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθον ἀθανάτοισιν  
εὐχόμενοι τὰ ἕκαστα· κατηφείη δ' ἔχεν ἄλλους  
ἥρωας Μινύας. ἡ δ' ἔσσυτο πολλὸν ἐπιπρὸ  
λαΐφεισιν, ἐς δ' ἔβαλον μύχατον ῥόον Ἑριδανοῖο·  
ἐνθα ποτ' αἰθαλόεντι τυπεῖς πρὸς στέρνα κεραυνῷ  
ἡμιδαῆς Φαίθων πέσεν ἄρματος Ἑελίοιο  
λίμνης ἐς προχοᾶς πολυβενθέος· ἡ δ' ἔτι νῦν περ  
τραύματος αἰθομένοιο βαρὺν ἀνακηκίει ἀτμόν.  
οὐδέ τις ὕδωρ κεῖνο διὰ πτερὰ κοῦφα τανύσσας  
οἰωνὸς δύναται βαλλέειν ὑπερ· ἀλλὰ μεσηγὺς  
φλογμῷ ἐπιθρῶσκει πεποτημένος. ἀμφὶ δὲ κοῦραι  
Ἥλιάδες ταναῆσιν ἐελμέναι αἰγείροισιν,  
μύρονται κινυρὸν μέλαι γόον· ἐκ δὲ φαιινὰς  
ἡλέκτρον λιβάδας βλεφύρων προχέουσιν ἔραζε,  
αἱ μὲν τ' ἡελίῳ ψαμάθοις ἐπὶ τερσαίνονται·  
εὖτ' ἂν δὲ κλύξῃσι κελαινῆς ὕδατα λίμνης  
ἡμόνας πνοιῇ πολυηχέος ἐξ ἀνέμοιο,  
δὴ τότε ἐς Ἑριδανὸν προκυλίνδεται ἀθρόα πάντα  
κυμαίνοντι ῥόω· Κελτοὶ δ' ἐπὶ βᾶξιν ἔθεντο,  
ὥς ἄρ' Ἀπόλλωνος τάδε δάκρυα Λητοῖδας  
συμφέρεται δίναις, ἃ τε μυρία χεῖρε πάροιθεν,  
ἦμος Ἑπερβορέων ἱερὸν γένος εἰσαφίκανεν,  
οὐρανὸν αἰγλήεντα λιπῶν ἐκ πατρὸς ἐπιπῆς,  
χωόμενος περὶ παιδί, τὸν ἐν λιπαρῇ Λακερείῃ  
διὰ Κορωνίς ἔτικτεν ἐπὶ προχοῆς Ἀμύροιο.

600

610

καὶ τὰ μὲν ὧς κείνῃσι μετ' ἀνδράσι κεκλήμινται·  
 τοὺς δ' οὔτε βρώμης ἤρει πόθος, οὐδὲ ποτοῖο,  
 οὐτ' ἐπὶ γηθοσύνας τράπετο νόος. ἀλλ' ἄρα τοίγε 620  
 ἤματα μὲν στρεύγοντο περιβληχρὸν βαρύθοντες  
 ὁδμῇ λευγαλέῃ, τὴν ῥ' ἄσχετον ἐξανίσκον  
 τυφομένον Φαέθοντος ἐπιρροαὶ Ἑριδανοῖο·  
 νυκτὸς δ' αὖ γόον ὀξὺν ὀδυρομένων ἐσάκουον  
 Ἑλιάδων λιγέως· τὰ δὲ δάκρυα μυρομένησιν  
 οἶον ἐλαιηραὶ στάγες ὕδασιν ἐμφορέοντο.

Ἐκ δὲ τότεν Ῥοδανοῖο βαθὺν ῥόον εἰσαπέβησαν,  
 ὅστ' εἰς Ἑριδανὸν μετανίσσεται· ἄμμιγα δ' ὕδωρ  
 ἐν ξυνοχῇ βέβρυχε κυκώμενον. αὐτὰρ ὁ γαίης  
 ἐκ μυχάτης, ἴνα τ' εἰσὶ πύλαι καὶ ἐδέθλια Νυκτός, 630  
 ἔλθεν ἀπορνύμενος τῇ μὲν τ' ἐπερεύγεται ἄκτας  
 Ὠκεανοῦ, τῇ δ' αὖτε μετ' Ἰονίην ἄλα βάλλει,  
 τῇ δ' ἐπὶ Σαρδόνιον πέλαγος καὶ ἀπείρονα κόλπον  
 ἐπτὰ διὰ στομάτων ἵει ῥόον. ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῖο  
 λίμνας εἰσέλασαν δυσχείμονας, αἵτ' ἀνὰ Κελτῶν  
 ἡπειρον πέπτανται ἀθέσφατον· ἔνθα κεν οἷγε  
 αἴτη ἀεικελίῃ πέλασαν· φέρε γάρ τις ἀπορρώξ  
 κόλπον ἐς Ὠκεανοῖο, τὸν οὐ προδαέντες ἔμελλον  
 εἰσβαλέειν, τότεν οὐ κεν ὑπότροποι ἐξεσάωθεν.  
 ἀλλ' Ἡρὴ σκοπέλοιο καθ' Ἑρκυνίου ἰάχησεν 640  
 οὐρανόθεν προθοροῦσα· φόβῳ δ' ἐτίναχθεν αὐτῆς  
 πάντες ὁμῶς· δεινὸν γὰρ ἐπὶ μέγας ἔβραχεν αἰθήρ.  
 ἄψ δὲ παλιντροπύωντο θεᾶς ὕπο, καὶ ῥ' ἐνόησαν  
 τὴν οἶμον, τῇπέρ τε καὶ ἔπλετο νόστος ἰοῦσιν.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

of Amyrus. And such is the story told among these men. But no desire for food or drink seized the heroes nor were their thoughts turned to joy. But they were sorely afflicted all day, heavy and faint at heart, with the noisome stench, hard to endure, which the streams of Eridanus sent forth from Phaëthon still burning; and at night they heard the piercing lament of the daughters of Helios, wailing with shrill voice; and, as they lamented, their tears were borne on the water like drops of oil.

Thence they entered the deep stream of Rhodanus which flows into Eridanus; and where they meet there is a roar of mingling waters. Now that river, rising from the ends of the earth, where are the portals and mansions of Night, on one side bursts forth upon the beach of Ocean, at another pours into the Ionian sea, and on the third through seven mouths sends its stream to the Sardinian sea and its limitless bay.<sup>1</sup> And from Rhodanus they entered stormy lakes, which spread throughout the Celtic mainland of wondrous size; and there they would have met with an inglorious calamity; for a certain branch of the river was bearing them towards a gulf of Ocean which in ignorance they were about to enter, and never would they have returned from there in safety. But Hera leaping forth from heaven pealed her cry from the Hercynian rock; and all together were shaken with fear of her cry; for terribly crashed the mighty firmament. And backward they turned by reason of the goddess, and noted the path by which their return was ordained.

<sup>1</sup> Apollonius seems to have thought that the Po, the Rhone, and the Rhine are all connected together.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

And after a long while they came to the beach of the surging sea by the devising of Hera, passing unharmed through countless tribes of the Celts and Ligyans. For round them the goddess poured a dread mist day by day as they fared on. And so, sailing through the midmost mouth, they reached the Stoechades islands in safety by the aid of the sons of Zeus; wherefore altars and sacred rites are established in their honour for ever; and not that sea-faring alone did they attend to succour; but Zeus granted to them the ships of future sailors too. Then leaving the Stoechades they passed on to the island Aethalia, where after their toil they wiped away with pebbles sweat in abundance; and pebbles like skin in colour are strewn on the beach<sup>1</sup>; and there are their quoits and their wondrous armour; and there is the Argoan harbour called after them.

And quickly from there they passed through the sea, beholding the Tyrrhenian shores of Ausonia; and they came to the famous harbour of Aeaëa, and from the ship they cast hawsers to the shore near at hand. And here they found Circe bathing her head in the salt sea-spray, for sorely had she been scared by visions of the night. With blood her chambers and all the walls of her palace seemed to be running, and flame was devouring all the magic herbs with which she used to bewitch strangers whoever came; and she herself with murderous blood quenched the glowing flame, drawing it up in her hands; and she ceased from deadly fear. Wherefore when morning came she rose, and with sea-spray was bathing her hair and her garments. And beasts, not resembling

<sup>1</sup> i.e. like the scrapings from skin, ἀποστλεγγίσματα; see Strabo p. 224 for this adventure.



οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἀνδρεσσιν ὁμὸν δέμας, ἄλλο δ' ἀπ'  
ἄλλων

συμμιγέες μελέων, κίον ἀθρόοι, ἥντε μῆλα  
ἐκ σταθμῶν ἄλεις εἰσιν ὀπηδεύοντα νομῇ.  
τοίους καὶ προτέρης ἐξ ἱλῦος ἐβλίσστησε  
χθῶν αὐτῇ μικτοῖσιν ἀρηρεμένους μελέεσσιν,  
οὐπω διψαλέω μάλ' ὑπ' ἡέρι πιληθεῖσα,  
οὐδέ πω ἀζαλέοιο βολαῖς τόσον ἡελίοιο  
ἱκμάδας αἰνυμένη· τὰ δ' ἐπὶ στίχας ἤγαγεν αἰὼν 680  
συγκρίνας· τῶς οἷγε φυὴν αἰδέηλοι ἔποντο.  
ἦρως δ' ἔλε θάμβος ἀπείριτον· αἶψα δ' ἕκαστος  
Κίρκης εἰς τε φυὴν, εἰς τ' ὄμματα παπταίνοντες  
ρεῖα κασιγνήτην φάσαν ἔμμεναι Λιήταο.

Ἡ δ' ὅτε δὴ νυχίων ἀπὸ δαίματα πέμψεν ὀνείρων,  
αὐτίκ' ἔπειτ' ἄψορρον ἀπέστιχε· τοὺς δ' ἅμ' ἔπεσθαι,  
χειρὶ καταρρέξασα, δολοφροσύνησιν ἄνωγεν.  
ἐνθ' ἵτοι πληθὺς μὲν ἐφετμαῖς Λίσσιόδαο  
μίμνεν ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ' ἐρύσσατο Κολχίδα κούρην.  
ἅμφω δ' ἐσπέσθην αὐτὴν ὁδόν, ἔστ' ἀφίκοντο 690  
Κίρκης ἐς μέγαρον· τοὺς δ' ἐν λιπαροῖσι κέλευεν  
ἤγε θρόνοις ἔξεσθαι, ἀμηχανέουσα κιόντων.  
τῷ δ' ἄνεψ καὶ ἀναυδοὶ ἐφ' ἐστίῃ αἰξάντε  
ἵξανον, ἥτε δίκη λυγροῖς ἰκέτησι τέτυκται,  
ἢ μὲν ἐπ' ἀμφοτέραις θεμένη χεῖρεςσι μέτωπα,  
αὐτὰρ ὁ κωπῆεν μέγα φάσγανον ἐν χθονὶ πῆξας,  
ὥπέρ τ' Αἰήταο πᾶιν κτάνεν· οὐδέ ποτ' ὄσσε  
ἰθὺς ἐνὶ βλεφάροισιν ἀνέσχεθον. αὐτίκα δ' ἔγνω  
Κίρκη φύξιον οἶτον ἀλιτροσύνας τε φόνοιο.  
τῷ καὶ ὀπιζομένη Ζηηνὸς θέμιν Ἰκεσίοιο, 700  
ὅς μέγα μὲν κοτέει, μέγα δ' ἀνδροφόνουσιν ἀρίγγει,  
ρέξε θυηπολίην, οἷη τ' ἀπολυμαίνονται

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

cleansed from guilt when they approach the altar. First, to atone for the murder still unexpiated, she held above their heads the young of a sow whose dugs yet swelled from the fruit of the womb, and, severing its neck, sprinkled their hands with the blood; and again she made propitiation with other drink offerings, calling on Zeus the Cleanser, the protector of murder-stained suppliants. And all the defilements in a mass her attendants bore forth from the palace—the Naiad nymphs who ministered all things to her. And within, Circe, standing by the hearth, kept burning atonement-cakes without wine, praying the while that she might stay from their wrath the terrible Furies, and that Zeus himself might be propitious and gentle to them both, whether with hands stained by the blood of a stranger or, as kinsfolk, by the blood of a kinsman, they should implore his grace.

But when she had wrought all her task, then she raised them up and seated them on well polished seats, and herself sat near, face to face with them. And at once she asked them clearly of their business and their voyaging, and whence they had come to her land and palace, and had thus seated themselves as suppliants at her hearth. For in truth the hideous remembrance of her dreams entered her mind as she pondered; and she longed to hear the voice of the maiden, her kinswoman, as soon as she saw that she had raised her eyes from the ground. For all those of the race of Helios were plain to discern, since by the far flashing of their eyes they shot in front of them a gleam as of gold. So Medea told her all she asked—the daughter of Aeetes of the gloomy heart, speaking gently in the

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

Colchian tongue, both of the quest and the journeyings of the heroes, and of their toils in the swift contests, and how she had sinned through the counsels of her much-sorrowing sister, and how with the sons of Phrixus she had fled afar from the tyrannous horrors of her father; but she shrank from telling of the murder of Apsyrtus. Yet she escaped not Circe's ken; nevertheless, in spite of all, she pitied the weeping maiden, and spake thus:

"Poor wretch, an evil and shameful return hast thou planned. Not for long, I ween, wilt thou escape the heavy wrath of Aetes; but soon will he go even to the dwellings of Hellas to avenge the blood of his son, for intolerable are the deeds thou hast done. But since thou art my suppliant and my kinswoman, no further ill shall I devise against thee at thy coming; but begone from my halls, companionship the stranger, whosoever he be, this unknown one that thou hast taken in thy father's despite; and kneel not to me at my hearth, for never will I approve thy counsels and thy shameful flight."

Thus she spake, and measureless anguish seized the maid; and over her eyes she cast her robe and poured forth a lamentation, until the hero took her by the hand and led her forth from the hall quivering with fear. So they left the home of Circe.

But they were not unmarked by the spouse of Zeus, son of Cronos; but Iris told her when she saw them faring from the hall. For Hera had bidden her watch what time they should come to the ship; so again she urged her and spake:

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rocks,<sup>1</sup> where roar terrible storms of fire and the waves foam round the rugged reefs. And now past the mighty rock of Scylla and Charybdis horribly belching, a course awaits them. But thee indeed from thy infancy did I tend with my own hands and love beyond all others that dwell in the salt sea because thou didst refuse to share the couch of Zeus, for all his desire. For to him such deeds are ever dear, to embrace either goddesses or mortal women. But in reverence for me and with fear in thy heart thou didst shrink from his love; and he then swore a mighty oath that thou shouldst never be called the bride of an immortal god. Yet he ceased not from spying thee against thy will, until reverend Themis declared to him the whole truth, how that it was thy fate to bear a son mightier than his sire; wherefore he gave thee up, for all his desire, fearing lest another should be his match and rule the immortals, and in order that he might ever hold his own dominion. But I gave thee the best of the sons of earth to be thy husband, that thou mightest find a marriage dear to thy heart and bear children; and I summoned to the feast the gods, one and all. And with my own hand I raised the bridal torch, in return for the kindly honour thou didst pay me. But come, let me tell a tale that erreth not. When thy son shall come to the Elysian plain, he whom now in the home of Cheiron the Centaur water-nymphs are tending, though he still craves thy mother milk, it is fated

<sup>1</sup> The *Symplegades* are referred to, where help was given by Athens, not by Hera. It is strange that no mention is made of the *Planctæ*, properly so called, past which they are soon to be helped. Perhaps some lines have fallen out.

χρειώ μιν κούρης πόσιν ἔμμεναι Λιήταο  
 Μηδείης· σὺ δ' ἄρηγε νῦν ἔκυρή περ εἰούσα,  
 ἥδ' αὐτῷ Πηλῇ. τί τοι χόλος ἐστήρικται;  
 αἰσθη. καὶ γάρ τε θεοὺς ἐπινίσσεται ἄτη.  
 ναὶ μὲν ἐφημοσύνησιν ἐμαῖς "Ἡφαιστον οἶω  
 λωφίσειεν πρήσσοντα πυρὸς μένος, Ἴπποτάδην δὲ  
 Αἴολον ὠκείας ἀνέμων αἰκας ἐρύξειν, 820  
 νόσφιν εὐσταθέος ζεφύρου, τείως κεν ἴκωνται  
 Φαιήκων λιμένας· σὺ δ' ἀκηδέα μήδεο νόστον.  
 δεῖμα δέ τοι πέτραι καὶ ὑπέρβια κύματ' ἔασιν  
 μοῖνον, ἃ κεν τρέψαιο κασιγνήτησι σὺν ἄλλαις.  
 μηδὲ σὺ γ' ἥδ' Χάρυβδιν ἀμηχανέοντας εἴσης  
 ἐσβαλέειν, μὴ πάντας ἀναβρόξασα φέρῃσιν,  
 ἥδ' παρὰ Σκύλλης στυγερὸν κευθμῶνα νέεσθαι,  
 Σκύλλης Λύσονῆς ὀλοόφρονος, ἣν τέκε Φόρκυι  
 νυκτιπύλος Ἑκάτη, τήντε κλείουσι Κράταιν,  
 μή πως σμερδαλέησιν ἐπαίξασα γένυσσιν 830  
 λεκτοὺς ἡρώων δηλίσσεται. ἀλλ' ἔχε νῆα  
 κείσ', ὅτι περ τυτθὴ γέ παραίβασις ἔσσειτ' ὀλέθρου.  
 Ὡς φάτο· τὴν δὲ θέτις τοίῳ προσελέξατο μύθῳ·  
 'Εὐ μὲν δὴ μαλεροῖο πυρὸς μένος ἡδὲ θύελλαι  
 ζαχρηεῖς λήξουσιν ἐτίττυμον, ἦ τ' ἂν ἔγωγε  
 θαρσαλέη φαίην, καὶ κύματος ἀντιόωντος  
 νῆα σωσέμεναι, ζεφύρου λίγα κινυμένοιο.  
 ἀλλ' ὦρῃ δολιχὴν τε καὶ ἄσπετον οἶμον ὁδεύειν,  
 ὄφρα κασιγνήτας μετελεύσομαι, αἳ μοι ἄρωγοὶ  
 ἔσσονται, καὶ νηὸς ὅθι πρυμνήσι' ἀνήπται, 840  
 οἷς κεν ὑπηῶι μνησαίατο νόστον ἐλέσθαι.  
 Ἦ, καὶ ἀναίξασα κατ' αἰθέρος ἔμπεσε δῖναις  
 κυανέου πόντοιο· κίλει δ' ἱπαμνέμεν ἄλλας

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

that he be the husband of Medea, Aetes' daughter ; do thou aid thy daughter as a mother should, and aid Peleus himself. Why is thy wrath so steadfast ? He was blinded by folly. For blindness comes even upon the gods. Surely at my behest I deem that Hephaestus will cease from kindling the fury of his flame, and that Aeolus, son of Hippotas, will check his swift rushing winds, all but the steady west wind, until they reach the havens of the Phaeacians ; do thou devise a return without bane. The rocks and the tyrannous waves are my fear, they alone, and them thou canst foil with thy sisters' aid. And let them not fall in their helplessness into Charybdis lest she swallow them at one gulp, or approach the hideous lair of Scylla, Ausonian Scylla the deadly, whom night-wandering Hecate, who is called Crataeis,<sup>1</sup> bare to Phoreys, lest swooping upon them with her horrible jaws she destroy the chiefest of the heroes. But guide their ship in the course where there shall be still a hair's breadth escape from destruction."

Thus she spake, and Thetis answered with these words : " If the fury of the ravening flame and the stormy winds cease in very deed, surely will I promise boldly to save the ship, even though the waves bar the way, if only the west wind blows fresh and clear. But it is time to fare on a long and measureless path, in quest of my sisters who will aid me, and to the spot where the ship's hawsers are fastened, that at early dawn the heroes may take thought to win their home-return."

She spake, and darting down from the sky fell amid the eddies of the dark blue sea ; and she called

<sup>1</sup> i.e. the Mighty One.

ἀθάνατος, καὶ οἱ στυγερὸν χρότ' γῆρας ἀλάλκοι.  
 αὐτὰρ δ' ὃ γ' ἐξ εὐνῆς ἀνεπάλμενος εἰσενόησεν  
 παῖδα φίλον σπαίροντα διὰ φλογός· ἦκε δ' αὐτὴν  
 σμερδαλέην ἐσιδών, μέγα νήπιος· ἦ δ' αἶουσα  
 τὸν μὲν ἄρ' ἄρπάγδην χαμάδις βάλε κεκληγῶτα,  
 αὐτὴ δὲ πνοιῇ ἰκέλη δέμας, ἡγύτ' ὄνειρος,  
 βῆ ῥ' Ἴμεν ἐκ μεγάροιο θοῶς, καὶ ἐσήλατο πόντον  
 χωσαμένη μετὰ δ' οὔτι παλίσσυτος ἴκετ' ὀπίσσω.  
 τῷ μιν ἰμωχανίῃ δῆσεν φρένας· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης 880  
 πᾶσαν ἐφημοσύνην Θέτιδος μετέειπεν ἑταίροις.  
 οἱ δ' ἄρα μεσσηγὺς λήξαν καὶ ἔπαυσαν ἀέθλους  
 ἐσσυμένως, δόρπον τε χαμεύνας τ' ἀμφεπένοντο,  
 τῆς ἐνὶ δαισάμενοι νύκτ' ἄεσαν, ὡς τὸ πάροιθεν.

Ἦμος δ' ἄκρον ἔβαλλε φαεσφόρος οὐρανὸν Ἥως,

δὴ τότε λαιψηροῖο κατηλυσίῃ ζεφύροιο  
 βαῖνον ἐπὶ κληῖδας ἰπὺ χθονός· ἐκ δὲ βυθοῖο  
 εὐναίας εἴλκον περιγηθείες ἄλλα τε πάντα  
 ἄρμενα μηρύοντο κατὰ χρέος· ὕψι δὲ λαῖφος 890  
 εἵρυσσαν τανύσαντες ἐν ἱμάντεσσι κεραίης.  
 νῆα δ' εὐκραῆς ἄνεμος φέρεν. αἶψα δὲ νῆσον  
 καλὴν, Ἀνθεμόεσσαν ἐσέδρακον, ἔνθα λίγειαί  
 Σειρήνες σίνοντ' Ἀχελωίδες ἠδείησιν  
 θέλγουσαι μολπήσιν, ὅτις παρὰ πείσμα βάλουτο.  
 τὰς μὲν ἄρ' εὐειδὴς Ἀχελωῖω εὐνηθείσα  
 γείνατο Τερψιχόρη, Μουσέων μία· καὶ ποτε Διοῦς  
 θυγατέρ' ἰφθίμην ἀδμήτ' ἔτι πορσαίνεσκον  
 ἄμμυρα μελπόμεναι· τότε δ' ἄλλο μὲν οἴωνοῖσιν,  
 ἄλλο δὲ παρθενίῃς ἐναλίγκιαι ἔσκον ιδέσθαι.  
 αἰεὶ δ' εὐόρμου δεδοκμημένοι ἐκ περιωπῆς 900  
 ἢ θαμὰ δὴ πολλῶν μελιθεά νύστων ἔλοντο,

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

and that she might keep off from his body loathsome old age. But Pelcus leapt up from his bed and saw his dear son gasping in the flame; and at the sight he uttered a terrible cry, fool that he was; and she heard it, and catching up the child threw him screaming to the ground, and herself like a breath of wind passed swiftly from the hall as a dream and leapt into the sea, exceeding wroth, and thereafter returned not again. Wherefore blank amazement fettered his soul; nevertheless he declared to his comrades all the bidding of Thetis. And they broke off in the midst and hurriedly ceased their contests, and prepared their meal and earth-strewn beds, whereon after supper they slept through the night as aforetime.

Now when dawn the light-bringer was touching the edge of heaven, then at the coming of the swift west wind they went to their thwarts from the land; and gladly did they draw up the anchors from the deep and made the tackling ready in due order; and above spread the sail, stretching it taut with the sheets from the yard-arm. And a fresh breeze wafted the ship on. And soon they saw a fair island, Anthemoessa, where the clear-voiced Sirens, daughters of Achelous, used to beguile with their sweet songs whoever cast anchor there, and then destroy him. Them lovely Terpsichore, one of the Muses, bare, united with Achelous; and once they tended Demeter's noble daughter still unwed, and sang to her in chorus; and at that time they were fashioned in part like birds and in part like maidens to behold. And ever on the watch from their place of prospect with its fair haven, often from many had they taken away their sweet return, consuming



τηκεδόνι φθινύθουσαι· ἀπηλεγέως δ' ἄρα καὶ τοῖς  
 ἴεσαν ἐκ στομάτων ὅπα λείριον. οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς  
 ἤδη πείσματ' ἐμελλον ἐπ' ἡιόνεσσι βαλέσθαι,  
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Οἰάγροιο πάϊς Θρηϊκίος Ὀρφεὺς  
 Βιστονίην ἐνὶ χερσὶν εἰς φόρμυγγα τανύσσας  
 κραιπνὸν ἐντροχάλοιο μέλος κανίχῃσεν ἀοιδῆς,  
 ὅφρ' ἄμνυδις κλονέοντος ἐπιβρομέωνται ἀκουαὶ  
 κρηγμῶ· παρθενικὴν δ' ἐνοπὴν ἐβίησατο φόρμυγξ.  
 νῆα δ' ὁμοῦ ζέφυρός τε καὶ ἠχῆεν φέρε κύμα 910  
 πρυμνόθεν ὀρνύμενον· ταὶ δ' ἄκριτον ἴεσαν αὐδὴν.  
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὧς Τελέοντος εὖς πάϊς, οἷος ἐταίρων  
 προφθάμενος, ξεστοῖο κατὰ ζυγοῦ ἐνθορε πόντῳ  
 Βούτης, Σειρήνων λιγυρῇ ὀπὶ θυμὸν ἰανθείς·  
 νῆχε δὲ πορφυρέοιο δι' οἴδματος, ὅφρ' ἐπιβαίῃ,  
 σχέτλιος. ἦ τέ οἱ αἶψα καταντόθι νόστον ἀπηγύρων,  
 ἀλλὰ μιν οἰκτεῖραςα θεὰ Ἑρκεος μεδέουσα  
 Κύπρις ἔτ' ἐν δίναις ἀνερείψατο, καὶ ῥ' ἐσάωσεν  
 πρόφρων ἀντομένη Λιλυβηίδα ναίεμεν ἄκρην.  
 οἱ δ' ἄχρῃ σχόμενοι τὰς μὲν λίπον, ἀλλὰ δ' ὕπαζον 920  
 κύντερα μιξοδίησιν αἰλὸς ῥαιστήρια νηῶν.

Τῇ μὲν γὰρ Σκύλλης λισσὴ προυφαίνετο πέτρη·  
 τῇ δ' ἄμοτον βοάσκειν ἀναβλύζουσα Χάρυβδις·  
 ἄλλοθι δὲ Πλαγκταὶ μεγάλῳ ὑπὸ κύματι πέτραι  
 ῥόχθεον, ἥχι πάροιθεν ἀπέπτυνε αἰθομένη φλόξ  
 ἄκρων ἐκ σκοπέλων, πυριθαλπέος ὑψόθι πέτρης,  
 καπνῷ δ' ἀχλυόεις αἰθὴρ πέλεν, οὐδέ κεν αὐγὰς  
 ἔδρακες ἡελίοιο. τότε αὖ λήξαντος ἀπ' ἔργων  
 Ἥφαίστου θερμὴν ἔτι κήκιε πόντος αὐτμήν.  
 ἐνθα σφιν κούραι Νηρηίδες αἰλοθὲν ἀλλαι

ἦντεον· ἡ δ' ὄπιθεν πτέρυγος θίγε πηδαλίοιο  
 δία Θέτις, Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνὶ σπιλάδεσσιν ἐρύσσαι.  
 ὥς δ' ὁπότεν δελφῖνες ὑπέξ ἁλὸς εὐδιόωντες  
 σπερχομένην ἀγγελιδὸν ἐλίσσονται περὶ νῆα,  
 ἄλλοτε μὲν προπάρειθεν ὁρώμενοι, ἄλλοτ' ὄπισθεν,  
 ἄλλοτε παρβολάδην, ναύτησι δὲ χάρμα τέτυκται  
 ὥς αἱ ὑπεκπροθέουσαι ἐπήτριμοι εἰλίσσοντο  
 Ἄργῳ περὶ νηί, Θέτις δ' ἴθυνε κέλευθον.  
 καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνιχρήμψεσθαι ἔμελλον,  
 αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐπὶ γούνασι πέζας, 940  
 ὑψοῦ ἐπ' αὐτῶν σπιλάδων καὶ κύματος ἀγῆς  
 ῥῶοντ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διασταδὸν ἀλλήλησιν.  
 τὴν δὲ παρηγορίην κόπτειν ῥόος· ἀμφὶ δὲ κύμα  
 λάβρον αἰερόμενον πέτραις ἐπικαχλάζεσκεν,  
 αἶθ' ὅτε μὲν κρημνοῖς ἐναλίγκιαι ἤερί κῦρον,  
 ἄλλοτε δὲ βρύχαι νεάτω ὑπὸ πυθμένι πόντου  
 ἡρήρειν, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπείρεχεν ἄγριον οἶδμα.  
 αἱ δ' ὥστ' ἡμαθόεντος ἐπισχεδὸν αἰγιαλοῖο  
 παρθενικαί, δίχα κόλπον ἐπ' ἰξύας εἰλίξασαι,  
 σφαίρῃ ἀθύρουσιν περιηγεί· αἱ μὲν ἔπειτα 950  
 ἄλλη ὑπ' ἐξ ἄλλης δέχεται καὶ ἐς ἡέρα πέμπει  
 ὕψι μεταχρονίην· ἡ δ' οὔποτε πῖλναται οὔδει·  
 ὥς αἱ νῆα θέουσιν ἀμοιβαδὶς ἄλλοθεν ἄλλη  
 πέμπε διηερίην ἐπὶ κύμασιν, αἰὲν ἄπωθεν  
 πετράων· περὶ δὲ σφιν ἐρευγόμενον ζέει ὕδωρ.  
 τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς ἀναξ κορυφῆς ἐπὶ λισσάδος ἄκρης  
 ὀρθὸς ἐπὶ στελεῇ τυπίδος βαρὺν ὤμον ἐρείσας  
 "Ἡφαιστος θηεῖτο, καὶ αἰγλήεντος ὑπερθεν  
 οὐρανοῦ ἐστηνῖα Διὸς δάμαρ· ἀμφὶ δ' Ἀθήνη

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the love of Macris. Whence it is called Drepane,<sup>1</sup> the sacred nurse of the Phacacians; and thus the Phacacians themselves are by birth of the blood of Uranus. To them came Argo, held fast by many toils, borne by the breezes from the Thrinacian sea; and Alcinous and his people with kindly sacrifice gladly welcomed their coming; and over them all the city made merry; thou wouldst say they were rejoicing over their own sons. And the heroes themselves strode in gladness through the throng, even as though they had set foot in the heart of Haemonia; but soon were they to arm and raise the battle-cry; so near to them appeared a boundless host of Colchians, who had passed through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks in search of the chieftains. They desired forthwith to carry off Medea to her father's house apart from the rest, or else they threatened with fierce cruelty to raise the dread war-cry both then and thereafter on the coming of Æetes. But lordly Alcinous checked them amid their eagerness for war. For he longed to allay the lawless strife between both sides without the clash of battle. And the maiden in deadly fear often implored the comrades of Aeson's son, and often with her hands touched the knees of Arete, the bride of Alcinous:

"I beseech thee, O queen, be gracious and deliver me not to the Colchians to be borne to my father, if thou thyself too art one of the race of mortals, whose heart rushes swiftly to ruin from light transgressions. For my firm sense forsook me—it was not for wantonness. Be witness the sacred light of Helios, be witness the rites of the maiden that

<sup>1</sup> i.e. the Sickle-island.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

wanders by night, daughter of Perses. Not willingly did I haste from my home with men of an alien race; but a horrible fear wrought on me to bethink me of flight when I sinned; other device was there none. Still my maiden's girdle remains, as in the halls of my father, unstained, untouched. Pity me, lady, and turn thy lord to mercy; and may the immortals grant thee a perfect life, and joy, and children, and the glory of a city unravaged!"

Thus did she implore Arete, shedding tears, and thus each of the chieftains in turn:

"On your account, ye men of peerless might, and on account of my toils in your ventures am I sorely afflicted; even I, by whose help ye yoked the bulls, and reaped the deadly harvest of the earthborn men; even I, through whom on your homeward path ye shall bear to Haemonia the golden fleece. Lo, here am I, who have lost my country and my parents, who have lost my home and all the delights of life; to you have I restored your country and your homes; with eyes of gladness ye will see again your parents; but from me a heavy-handed god has reft all joy; and with strangers I wander, an accursed thing. Fear your covenant and your oaths, fear the Fury that avenges suppliants and the retribution of heaven, if I fall into Aetes' hands and am slain with grievous outrage. To no shrines, no tower of defence, no other refuge do I pay heed, but only to you. Hard and pitiless in your cruelty! No reverence have ye for me in your heart though ye see me helpless, stretching my hands towards the knees of a stranger queen; yet, when ye longed to seize the fleece,

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

ye would have met all the Colchians face to face and haughty Aetes himself; but now ye have forgotten your courage, now that they are all alone and cut off."

Thus she spake, beseeching; and to whomsoever she bowed in prayer, that man tried to give her heart and to check her anguish. And in their hands they shook their sharp pointed spears, and drew the swords from their sheaths; and they swore they would not hold back from giving succour, if she should meet with an unrighteous judgement. And the host were all wearied and Night came on them, Night that puts to rest the works of men, and lulled all the earth to sleep; but to the maid no sleep brought rest, but in her bosom her heart was wrung with anguish. Even as when a toiling woman turns her spindle through the night, and round her moun her orphan children, for she is a widow, and down her cheeks fall the tears, as she bethinks her how dreary a lot hath seized her; so Medea's cheeks were wet; and her heart within her was in agony, pierced with sharp pain.

Now within the palace in the city, as aforetime, lay lordly Alcinous and Arete, the revered wife of Alcinous, and on their couch through the night they were devising plans about the maiden; and him, as her wedded husband, the wife addressed with loving words:

"Yea, my friend, come, save the woe-stricken maid from the Colchians and show grace to the Minyae. Argos is near our isle and the men of Haemonia; but Aetes dwells not near, nor do we know of Aetes one whit: we hear but his name; but this maiden of dread suffering hath broken my

μή μιν, ἄναξ, Κόλχοισι πόροις ἐς πατρός ἄγεσθαι.  
 ἁάσθη, ὅτε πρῶτα βοῶν θελκτῆρια δῶκεν  
 φάρμακά οἱ· σχεδόθεν δὲ κακῷ κακόν, οἷά τε  
 πολλὰ

1080

ῥέζομεν ἀμπλακίησιν, ἀκειομένη ὑπάλυξεν  
 πατρός ὑπερφυίλοιο βαρὺν χόλον. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων,  
 ὥς αἴω, μεγάλοισιν ἐνίσχεται ἐξ ἔθεν ὄρκοις,  
 κουριδίην θήσεσθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἄκοιτιν.  
 τῷ, φίλε, μήτ' οὖν αὐτὸν ἐκὼν ἐπίορκον ὁμῶσσαι  
 θείης Αἰσονίδην, μήτ' ἄσχετα σείο ἔκhti  
 παῖδα πατὴρ θυμῷ κεκοτηότι δηλήσαιτο.  
 λίην γὰρ δύσζηλοι ἑαῖς ἐπὶ παισὶ τοκῆς·  
 οἷα μὲν Ἀντιόπην εὐνόπιδα μήσατο Νυκτεὺς·  
 οἷα δὲ καὶ Δανάη πόντῳ ἐνὶ πῆματ' ἰνέτλη,  
 πατρός ἀτασθαλίῃσι· νέον γε μὲν, οὐδ' ἀποτηλοῦ,  
 ὑβριστῆς Ἐχέτος γλῆναις ἐνὶ χάλκεα κέντρα  
 πῆξε θυγατρὸς ἐῆς· στονόεντι δὲ κάρφεται οἴτῳ  
 ὀρφναίῃ ἐνὶ χαλκὸν ἀλετρεύουσα καλιῇ.

1090

Ὡς ἔφατ' ἀντομένη· τοῦ δὲ φρένες ἰαίνοντο  
 ἦς ἀλόχου μύθοισιν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν·

Ἄρητη, καὶ κεν σὺν τεύχεσιν ἐξελάσαιμι  
 Κόλχους, ἡρώεσσι φέρων χάριν, εἵνεκα κούρης.  
 ἀλλὰ Διὸς δεῖδοικα δίκην ἰθεῖαν ἀτίσσαι.  
 οὐδὲ μὲν Αἰήτην ἀθεριζέμεν, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,  
 Λάϊον· οὐ γάρ τις βασιλεύτερος Αἰήταο.  
 καὶ κ' ἐθέλων, ἑκαθὲν περ, ἐφ' Ἑλλάδι νεῖκος  
 ἄγοιτο.

1100

τῷ μ' ἐπέοικε δίκην, ἣτις μετὰ πᾶσιν ὑρίστη  
 ἔσσεται ἀνθρώποισι, δικαζέμεν οὐδέ σε κεύσω.  
 παρθενικὴν μὲν εἰῶσαν ἐφ' ἀπὸ πατρὶ κομίσσαι  
 ἰθύνω· λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσιν

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

heart by her prayers. O king, give her not up to the Colchians to be borne back to her father's home. She was distraught when first she gave him the drugs to charm the oxen; and next, to cure one ill by another, as in our sinning we do often, she fled from her haughty sire's heavy wrath. But Jason, as I hear, is bound to her by mighty oaths that he will make her his wedded wife within his halls. Wherefore, my friend, make not, of thy will, Aeson's son to be forsworn, nor let the father, if thou canst help, work some intolerable mischief on his child. For fathers are all too jealous against their children; what wrong did Nycteus devise against Antiope, fair of face! What woes did Danae endure on the wide sea through her sire's mad rage! Of late, and not far away, Echetus in wanton cruelty thrust spikes of bronze in his daughter's eyes; and by a grievous fate is she wasting away, grinding grains of bronze in a dungeon's gloom."

Thus she spake, beseeching; and by his wife's words his heart was softened, and thus he spake:

"Arete, with arms I could drive forth the Colchians, showing grace to the heroes for the maiden's sake. But I fear to set at nought the righteous judgement of Zeus. Nor is it well to take no thought of Aetes, as thou sayest: for none is more lordly than Aetes. And, if he willed, he might bring war upon Hellas, though he dwell afar. Wherefore it is right for me to deliver the judgement that in all men's eyes shall be best; and I will not hide it from thee. If she be yet a maid I decree that they carry her back to her father; but if she shares a husband's bed, I will not separate her from her lord; nor, if

οὐ μιν ἐοῦ πόσιος νοσφίσσομαι· οὐδέ, γενέθλην  
εἴ τι· ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοισι φέρει, δῆλοισιν ὁπάσσω.

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπισχεδὸν εὐνασεν  
ὑπνος.

1110

ἢ δ' ἔπος ἐν θυμῷ πυκινὸν βάλλει· αὐτίκα δ' ὦρτο  
ἐκ λεχέων ἀνὰ δῶμα· συνήϊξαν δὲ γυναῖκες  
ἀμφίπολοι, δέσποιναν ἐὴν μέτα ποιπνύουσαι.  
σῖγα δ' εὖν κήρυκα καλεσσαμένη προσέειπεν,  
ᾗσιν ἐπιφροσύνησιν ἐποτρυνέουσα μεγῆναι  
Αἰσονίδην κούρην, μηδ' Ἀλκίνοον βασιλῆα  
λίσσεσθαι· τὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἰὼν Κόλχοισι δικάσσει,  
παρθενικὴν μὲν εἶδον ἐοῦ ποτὶ δῶματα πατρὸς  
ἐκδώσειν, λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσιν  
οὐκέτι κουριδῆς μιν ἀποτμήξειν φιλότητος.

1120

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· τὸν δ' αἶψα πόδες φέρον ἐκ μεγάρου,  
ὥς κεν Ἰήσωνι μῦθον ἐναΐσιμον ἀγγεΐλειεν  
Ἀρήτης βουλῆς τε θεοῦδεός Ἀλκινόοιο.  
τοὺς δ' εὗρεν παρὰ νῆϊ σὺν ἔντεσιν ἐγρήσσοντας  
Ἑλλικῷ ἐν λιμένι, σχεδὸν ἄστεος· ἐκ δ' ἄρα πᾶσαν  
πέφραδεν ἀγγελίην· γήθησε δὲ θυμὸς ἐκίστου  
ἡρώων· μάλα γάρ σφιν ἐαδότα μῦθον εἶπεν.

Αὐτίκα δὲ κρητῆρᾷ κερασσάμενοι μακάρεσσιν  
ἢ θέμις, εὐαγέως ἐπιβώμια μῆλ' ἐρύσαντες,  
αὐτοινχὶ κούρῃ θαλαμῆιον ἔντυον εὐνήν  
ἄντρον ἐν ἡγαθέῳ, τόθι δὴ ποτε Μάκρις ἔβαιεν,  
κούρῃ Ἀρισταίῳ μελίφρονος, ὅς ῥα μελισσέων  
ἔργα πολυκμήτοιο τ' ἀνεύρατο πῖᾱρ ἐλαΐης.  
κεῖνη δὲ πᾶμπρωτα Διὸς Νυσήιον νῆα  
Εὐβοίης ἔντοσθεν Ἀβαντίδος ᾧ ἐνὶ κόλπῳ  
δέξατο, καὶ μέλιτι ξηρὸν περὶ χεῖλος ἔδευσεν,  
εὐτέ μιν Ἑρμείας φέρεν ἐκ πυρός· ἔδρακε δ' Ἥρη,  
καὶ ἐχολωσαμένη πάσης ἐξήλασε νήσου.

1130



ἦ δ' ἄρα Φαιήκων ἱερῷ ἐνὶ τηλόθεν ἄνθρω  
 νάσσατο, καὶ πόρεν ὄλβον ἀθέσφατον ἐνναέτησιν. 1140  
 ἔνθα τότε ἑστόρεσαν λέκτρον μέγα· τοῖο δ' ὕπερθεν  
 χρύσειον αἰγλήεν κῶας βάλλον, ὅφρα πέλοιτο  
 τιμῆεις τε γάμος καὶ αἰοίδιμος. ἄνθεα δέ σφιν  
 νύμφαι ἀμεργόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐνὶ ποικίλα κόλποις  
 ἐσφόρεον· πάσας δὲ πυρὸς ὥς ἄμφεπεν αἰγλή·  
 τοῖον ἀπὸ χρυσεῶν θυσάνων ἀμαρύσσετο φέγγος.  
 δαΐε δ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς γλυκερὸν πόθον· ἴσχε δ'  
 ἐκάστην

αἰδὼς ἰεμένην περ ὅμως ἐπὶ χεῖρα βαλέσθαι.  
 αἱ μὲν τ' Αἰγαίου ποταμοῦ καλέοντο θύγατρες·  
 αἱ δ' ὄρεος κορυφὰς Μελιτηίου ἀμφενέμοντο· 1159  
 αἱ δ' ἔσαν ἐκ πεδίων ἀλσηίδες. ὥρσε γὰρ αὐτὴ  
 "Ἡρῃ Ζηνὸς ἄκοιτις, Ἰήσωνα κυδαίνουσα.  
 κεῖνο καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν ἱερὸν κληίζεται ἄντρον  
 Μηδείης, ὅθι τούσγε σὺν ἀλλήλοισιν ἔμιξαν  
 τεινόμεναι ἑανοὺς εὐώδεας. οἱ δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν  
 δούρατα νομήσαντες ἀρήια, μὴ πρὶν ἐς ἀλκὴν  
 δυσμενέων αἰδέηλος ἐπιβρίσειεν ὄμιλος,  
 κρίατα δ' εὐφύλλοις ἐστεμμένοι ἀκρεμόνεσσιν,  
 ἐμμελέως, Ὀρφῆος ὑπαὶ λίγα φορμίζοντος  
 νυμφιδίαις ὑμέναιον ἐπὶ προμολῆσιν αἰείδον. 1160  
 οὐ μὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο γάμον μενέαινε τελέσσαι  
 ἥρως Αἰσονίδης, μεγάροις δ' ἐνὶ πατρὸς ἐοῖο,  
 νοστήσας ἐς Ἰωλκὸν ὑπὸ τροπὸς· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ  
 Μῆδεια φρονέεσκε· τότε αὖ χρεὼ ἦγε μιγῆναι.  
 ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὐποτε φύλα δυηπαθέων ἀνθρώπων  
 τερπωλῆς ἐπέβημεν ὄλω ποδί· σὺν δέ τις αἰεὶ  
 πικρὴ παρμέμβλωκεν ἐνφροσύνῃσιν ἀνίη.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

to dwell far off, in the sacred cave of the Phaeacians, and granted boundless wealth to the inhabitants. There at that time did they spread a mighty couch ; and thereon they laid the glittering fleece of gold, that so the marriage might be made honoured and the theme of song. And for them nymphs gathered flowers of varied hue and bore them thither in their white bosoms ; and a splendour as of flame played round them all, such a light gleamed from the golden tufts. And in their eyes it kindled a sweet longing ; yet for all her desire, awe withheld each one from laying her hand thereon. Some were called daughters of the river Aegæus ; others dwelt round the crests of the Meliteian mount ; and others were woodland nymphs from the plains. For Hera herself, the spouse of Zeus, had sent them to do honour to Jason. That cave is to this day called the sacred cave of Medea, where they spread the fine and fragrant linen and brought these two together. And the heroes in their hands wielded their spears for war, lest first a host of foes should burst upon them for battle unawares, and, their heads enwreathed with leafy sprays, all in harmony, while Orpheus' harp rang clear, sang the marriage song at the entrance to the bridal chamber. Yet not in the house of Alcinous was the hero, Aeson's son, minded to complete his marriage, but in his father's hall when he had returned home to Iolcus ; and such was the mind of Medea herself ; but necessity led them to wed at this time. For never in truth do we tribes of woe-stricken mortals tread the path of delight with sure foot ; but still some bitter affliction keeps pace with our joy. Wherefore they too, though their souls were melted

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

with sweet love, were held by fear, whether the sentence of Alcinous would be fulfilled.

Now dawn returning with her beams divine scattered the gloomy night through the sky; and the island beaches laughed out and the paths over the plains far off, drenched with dew, and there was a din in the streets; the people were astir throughout the city, and far away the Colchians were astir at the bounds of the isle of Maeris. And straight-way to them went Alcinous, by reason of his covenant, to declare his purpose concerning the maiden; and in his hand he held a golden staff, his staff of justice, whereby the people had righteous judgments meted out to them throughout the city. And with him in order due and arrayed in their harness of war went marching, band by band, the chiefs of the Phaeacians. And from the towers came forth the women in crowds to gaze upon the heroes; and the country folk came to meet them when they heard the news, for Hera had sent forth a true report. And one led the chosen ram of his flock, and another a heifer that had never toiled; and others set hard by jars of wine for mixing; and the smoke of sacrifice leapt up far away. And women bore fine linen, the fruit of much toil, as women will, and gifts of gold and varied ornaments as well, such as are brought to newly-wedded brides; and they marvelled when they saw the shapely forms and beauty of the gallant heroes, and among them the son of Oeagrus, oft beating the ground with gleaming sandal, to the time of his loud-ringing lyre and song. And all the nymphs together, whenever he recalled the marriage, uplifted the lovely bridal-chant; and at times again they sang alone as they

οἴοθεν οἶαι ἄειδον ἐλισσόμεναι περὶ κύκλον,  
 "Ἡρῃ, σείο ἔκῃτι· σὺ γὰρ καὶ ἐπὶ φρεσὶ θῆκας  
 Ἀρήτην, πυκινὸν φάσθαι ἔπος Ἀλκινόοιο. 1200  
 αὐτὰρ ὃγ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτα δίκης ἀνὰ πείρατ' εἶπεν  
 ἰθείης, ἤδη δὲ γάμον τέλος ἐκλήμστο,  
 ἔμπεδον ὥς ἀλέγυνε διαμπερές· οὐδέ ἐ τάρβος  
 οὐλοῦν, οὐδέ βαρεῖαι ἐπήλυθον Αἰήταο  
 μήμιν, ἀρρήκτοισι δ' ἐνιζεύξας ἔχεν ὄρκοις.  
 τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἠλεμάτως Κόλχοι μάθον ἀντιόωντες,  
 καὶ σφεας ἡὲ θέμιστας εἰς εἴρυσθαι ἄνωγεν,  
 ἢ λιμένων γαίης τ' ἀποτηλόθι νῆας ἐέργειν,  
 δὴ τότε μιν βασιλῆος ἐοῦ τρομέοντες ἐνιπὰς  
 δέχθαι μειλίζαντο συνήμονας· αὐθι δὲ νήσῳ 1210  
 δὴν μάλα Φαιήκεσσι μετ' ἀνδράσι ναιετάασκον,  
 εἰσότε Βακχιάδαι, γενεὴν Ἐφύρηθεν εἶοντες,  
 ἀνέρες ἐννάσσαντο μετὰ χρόνον· οἱ δὲ περαίην  
 νῆσον ἔβαν· κεῖθεν δὲ Κεραῦνία μέλλον Ἀβάντων  
 οὖρεα, Νεσταίους τε καὶ Ὀρικὸν εἰσαφικέσθαι·  
 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν στείχοντος ἄδην αἰῶνος ἐτύχθη.  
 Μοιράων δ' ἔτι κεῖσε θύῃ ἐπέτεια δέχονται  
 καὶ Νυμφέων Νομίοιο καθ' ἱερὸν Ἀπόλλωνος  
 βωμοί, τοὺς Μῆδεια καθίσσατο. πολλὰ δ' ἰοῦσιν 1220  
 Ἀλκίνοος Μινύαις ξεινήια, πολλὰ δ' ὄπασσεν  
 Ἀρήτη· μετὰ δ' αὖτε δωῶδεκα δῶκεν ἔπεσθαι  
 Μηδείῃ δμῶας Φαιηκίδας ἐκ μεγάροιο.  
 ἤματι δ' ἐβδομάτῳ Δρεπάνην λίπον· ἤλυθε δ' οὖρος  
 ἀκραῆς ἠῶθεν ὑπὲκ Διός· οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο  
 πνοιῇ ἐπειγόμενοι προτέρω θεόν. ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὐπω

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

circled in the dance, Hera, in thy honour; for it was thou that didst put it into the heart of Arete to proclaim the wise word of Alcinous. And as soon as he had uttered the decree of his righteous judgement, and the completion of the marriage had been proclaimed, he took care that thus it should abide fixed; and no deadly fear touched him nor Aetes' grievous wrath, but he kept his judgement fast bound by unbroken oaths. So when the Colchians learnt that they were beseeching in vain and he bade them either observe his judgements or hold their ships away from his harbours and land, then they began to dread the threats of their own king and besought Alcinous to receive them as comrades; and there in the island long time they dwelt with the Phaeacians, until in the course of years, the Bacchiadae, a race sprung from Ephyræ,<sup>1</sup> settled among them; and the Colchians passed to an island opposite; and thence they were destined to reach the Ceraunian hills of the Abantes, and the Nestaeans and Oricum; but all this was fulfilled after long ages had passed. And still the altars which Medea built on the spot sacred to Apollo, god of shepherds, receive yearly sacrifices in honour of the Fates and the Nymphs. And when the Minyae departed many gifts of friendship did Alcinous bestow, and many Arete; moreover she gave Medea twelve Phaeacian handmaids from the palace, to bear her company. And on the seventh day they left Drepane; and at dawn came a fresh breeze from Zeus. And onward they sped borne along by the wind's breath. Howbeit not yet was

<sup>1</sup> The old name of Corinth.

αἶσιμον ἦν ἐπιβῆναι Ἀχαιίδος ἡρώεσσιν,  
ὄφρ' ἔτι καὶ Λιβύης ἐπὶ πείρασιν ὀτλήσειαν.

Ἦδη μὲν ποθὶ κόλπον ἐπώνυμον Ἀμβρακιήων,  
ἦδη Κουρήτιν ἔλιπον χθόνα πεπταμένοισιν  
λαΐφεσι καὶ στευνὰς αὐταῖς σὺν Ἐχινάσι νήσους  
ἐξείης, Πέλοπος δὲ νέον κατεφαίνετο γαῖα·  
καὶ τότε ἄναρπάγδην ὅλοη βορέαο θύελλα  
μεσσηγὺς πέλαγόςδε Λιβυστικὸν ἐννέα πάσας  
νύκτας ὁμῶς καὶ τόσσα φέρ' ἤματα, μέχρ' ἴκοντο  
προπρὸ μάλ' ἐνδοθὶ Σύρτιν, ὅθ' οὐκέτι νύστος  
ὀπίσσω

1230

νηυσὶ πέλει, ὅτε τόνγε βιῶατο κόλπον ἰκέσθαι.  
πάντῃ γὰρ τέναγος, πάντῃ μνιόεντα βυθοῖο  
τύρφεα· κούφη δὲ σφιν ἐπιβλύει ὕδατος ἄχνη·  
ἡερίη δ' ἄμαθος παρακέκλιται· οὐδέ τι κεῖσε  
έρπετόν, οὐδέ ποτήτὸν αἰρέται. ἐνθ' ἄρα τούσγῃ  
πλημμυρίς—καὶ γάρ τ' ἀναχάζεται ἡπείροιο  
ἢ θαμὰ δὴ τότε χεῦμα, καὶ ἄψ' ἐπερεύγεται ἀκτὰς  
λαῖβρον ἐποιχόμενον—μυχάτῃ ἐνέφωσε τάχιστα  
ἡῖόνι, τρόπιος δὲ μάλ' ὕδασι παῦρον ἔλειπτο.  
οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς ὄρουσαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν εἰσορόωντας  
ἡέρα καὶ μεγάλῃς νῶτα χθονὸς ἡέρι ἴσα,  
τηλοῦ ὑπερτείνοντα διηνεκές· οὐδέ τιν' ἀρδμόν,  
οὐ πάτον, οὐκ ἀπάνευθε κατηνγάσσαντο βοτήρων  
αὔλιον, εὐκήλῃ δὲ κατείχετο πάντα γαλήνη.  
ἄλλος δ' αὐτ' ἄλλον τετιημένος ἐξερέεινεν

1240

1250

Ἵς χθὼν εὐχεται ἦδε; πόθι ξυνέωσαν ἀελλαι  
ἡμέας; αἰθ' ἔτλημεν, ἀφειδέες οὐλομένοιο  
δείματος, αὐτὰ κέλευθα διαμπερές ὁρμηθῆναι  
πετρώων. ἢ τ' ἂν καὶ ὑπὲρ Διὸς αἶσαν ἰοῦσιν  
βέλτερον ἦν μέγα δὴ τι μενοιώοντας ὀλέσθαι.  
νῦν δὲ τί κεν ῥέξαιμεν, ἐρυκόμενοι ἀνέμοισιν

αὐθι μένειν τυτθὸν περ ἐπὶ χρόνον· οἷον ἐρήμη  
πέζα διωλυγίης ἀναπέπταται ἠπείροιο.<sup>1</sup>

\*Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· μετὰ δ' αὐτὸς ἀμυχανίῃ κακότητος  
ἰθυντήρ' Ἀγκαῖος ἀκηχέμενος ἀγόρευσεν·

1260

'Ὡλόμεθ' αἰνότατον δῆθεν μόρον, οὐδ' ὑπάλυξίς  
ἔστ' αἴτης· πᾶρα δ' ἄμμι τὰ κύντατα πημανθῆναι  
τῇδ' ὑπ' ἐρημαίῃ πεπτηότας, εἰ καὶ αἴηται

χερσόθεν ἀμπνεύσειαν· ἐπεὶ τεναγώδεα λείσσω  
τῇλε περισκοπέων ἄλα πάντοθεν· ἤλιθα δ' ὕδωρ  
ξαινόμενον πολιῆσιν ἐπιτροχάει ψαμύθοισιν.

καὶ κεν ἐπισμυγερώς διὰ δὴ πάλαι ἡδ' ἐκεάσθη  
νηὺς ἱερὴ χέρσου πολλὸν πρόσω· ἀλλὰ μιν αὐτὴ  
πλημμυρὶς ἐκ πόντοιο μεταχθονίην ἐκόμισσεν.

νῦν δ' ἡ μὲν πέλαγόςδε μετέσσνται, οἴοθι δ' ἄλμη 1270  
ἄπλοος εἰλεῖται, γαίης ὑπερ ὅσσον ἔχουσα.

τούνεκ' ἐγὼ πᾶσαν μὲν ἀπ' ἐλπίδα φημὶ κεκόφθαι  
ναυτιλίας νόστου τε. δαημοσύνην δέ τις ἄλλος  
φαίνοι ἐήν<sup>1</sup>· πᾶρα γάρ οἱ ἐπ' οἴηκεσσι θαύσσειν  
μαιομένῳ κομιδῆς. ἀλλ' οὐ μᾶλα νόστιμον ἡμαρ  
Ζεὺς ἐθέλει καμάτοισιν ἐφ' ἡμετέροισι τελέσσαι.

\*Ὡς φάτο δακρυόεις· σὺν δ' ἔννεπον ἀσχαλόωντι  
ὅσσοι ἔσαν νηῶν δεδαημένοι· ἐν δ' ἄρα πᾶσιν  
παχνώθη κραδίη, χύτο δὲ χλός ἀμφὶ παρειάς.

οἷον δ' ἀψύχοισιν εἰκότες εἰδώλοισιν

1280

ἀνέρες εἰλίσσονται ἀνὰ πτόλιν, ἢ πολέμοιο  
ἢ λοιμοῖο τέλος ποτιδέγμενοι, ἢ τέ τιν' ὄμβρον  
ἄσπετον, ὅστε βοῶν κατὰ μυρία ἔκλυσεν ἔργα,

ἢ ὅταν αὐτόματα ξόανα ῥέη ἰδρώοντα  
αἵματι, καὶ μυκαὶ σηκοῖς ἐνὶ φαντάζωνται,  
ἢ καὶ ἡέλιος μέσῳ ἡματι νύκτ' ἐπάγησιν

<sup>1</sup> φαίνοι ἐφ' Madvig: φαίνοιν Lli.

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

by the winds to stay here, if ever so short a time?  
How desolate looms before us the edge of the  
limitless land!"

Thus one spake; and among them Ancaeus the  
helmsman, in despair at their evil case, spoke with  
grieving heart: "Verily we are undone by a terrible  
doom; there is no escape from ruin; we must suffer  
the cruellest woes, having fallen on this desolation,  
even though breezes should blow from the land; for,  
as I gaze far around, on every side do I behold a sea  
of shoals, and masses of water, fretted line upon line,  
run over the hoary sand. And miserably long ago  
would our sacred ship have been shattered far from  
the shore; but the tide itself bore her high on to the  
land from the deep sea. But now the tide rushes  
back to the sea, and only the foam, whereon no ship  
can sail, rolls round us, just covering the land. Where-  
fore I deem that all hope of our voyage and of our  
return is cut off. Let someone else show his skill;  
let him sit at the helm—the man that is eager for  
our deliverance. But Zeus has no will to fulfil our  
day of return after all our toils."

Thus he spake with tears, and all of them that had  
knowledge of ships agreed thereto; but the hearts of  
all grew numb, and pallor overspread their cheeks.  
And as, like lifeless spectres, men roam through a  
city awaiting the issue of war or of pestilence, or  
some mighty storm which overwhelms the countless  
labours of oxen, when the images of their own  
accord sweat and run down with blood, and bellowings  
are heard in temples, or when at mid-day the sun  
draws on night from heaven, and the stars shine



‘Κάμμορε, τίπτ’ ἐπὶ τόσσον ἀμνηχανίῃ βεβό-  
λῃσαι;

Ἴδμεν ἐποικομένους χρύσειον δέρος· Ἴδμεν ἕκαστα  
ὑμετέρων καμάτων, ὅσ’ ἐπὶ χθονός, ὅσσα τ’ ἐφ’ ὑγρὴν 1320  
πλαζόμενοι κατὰ πόντον ὑπέρβια ἔργ’ ἐκάμεσθε.  
οἰσπόλοι δ’ εἰμὲν χθόνιαι θεαὶ αὐδῆσσαι,  
ἡρώσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἡδὲ θύγατραι.  
ἀλλ’ ἄνα· μηδ’ ἔτι τοῖον οἰζύνων ἀκάχησο·  
ἄνστησον δ’ ἐτάρους. εὖτ’ ἂν δέ τοι Ἀμφιτρίτη  
ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος εὐτροχον αὐτίκα λύσῃ,  
δὴ ῥα τότε σφετέρῃ ἀπὸ μητέρι τίνετ’ ἀμοιβὴν  
ὣν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ὕμμε φέρουσά·  
καὶ κεν ἔτ’ ἡγαθέην ἐς Ἀχαιίδα νοστήσαιτε.

“Ὡς ἄρ’ ἔφαν, καὶ ἄφαντοι ἦν ἑσταθεν, ἔνθ’ ἄρα  
ταίγε

1330

φθογγῇ ὁμοῦ ἐγένοντο παρασχεδόν. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων  
παπτήνας ἂν’ ἄρ’ ἔζेत’ ἐπὶ χθονός, ὧδέ τ’ εἶπεν·

“Ἰλατ’ ἐρημονόμοι κυδραὶ θεαί· ἀμφὶ δὲ νόστῳ  
οὔτι μαλ’ ἀντικρὺ νοέω φάτιν. ἡ μὲν ἐταίρους  
εἰς ἐν ἀγειράμενος μυθήσομαι, εἴ νύ τι τέκμων  
δῆωμεν κομιδῆς· πολέων δέ τε μῆτις ἀρείων.”

Ἢ, καὶ ἀναίξας ἐταίρους ἐπὶ μακρὸν αὐτεῖ,  
αὐσταλέος κοίῃσι, λέων ὥς, ὅς ῥά τ’ ἂν ὕλην  
σύννομον ἦν μεθέπων ὠρύεται· αἱ δὲ βαρεῖη  
φθογγῇ ὑποτρομέουσιν ἂν’ οὔρεα τηλόθι βῆσσαι· 1340  
δείματι δ’ ἄγραιοί τε βόες μέγα πεφρίκασιν  
βουπελάται τε βοῶν· τοῖς δ’ οὔ νύ τι γῆρυς ἐτύχθη  
ρίγεδανῇ ἐτάριοι φίλους ἐπικεκλομένοιο.  
ἀγχοῦ δ’ ἡγερέθοντο κατηφές· αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῦσγε  
ἀχνυμένους ὄρμοιο πέλας μίγα θηλυτέρησιν  
ιδρύσας, μυθεῖτο πιφαισκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα·

‘Κλῦτε, φίλοι· τρεῖς γάρ μοι ἀνιάζοντι θεάων,  
στέρφεσιν αἰγείοις ἐξωσμέναι ἐξ ὑπάτοις  
αὐχένος ἀμφί τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας, ἥντε κοῦραι,  
ἔσταν ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς μάλ’ ἐπισχεδόν· ἂν δ’ ἐκά-  
λυψαν

1350

πέπλον ἐρυσσάμεναι κούφῃ χερὶ, καὶ μ’ ἐκέλοντο  
αὐτόν τ’ ἐγρεσθαι, ἀνά θ’ ὑμέας ὄρσαι ἰόντα·  
μητέρι δὲ σφετέρῃ μενοεικέα τίσαι ἀμοιβὴν  
ὧν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ἄμμε φέρουσα  
ὅππότε κεν λύσῃσιν εὐτρόχον Ἀμφιτρίτη  
ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος. ἐγὼ δ’ οὐ πάγχυ νοῆσαι  
τῆσδε θεοπροπίης ἴσχω πέρι. φάν γε μὲν εἶναι  
ἡρώσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἠδὲ θύγατρες·  
καὶ δ’ ὀπόσ’ αὐτοὶ πρόσθεν ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἠδ’ ὄσ’ ἐφ’  
ὕγρην

ἔτλημεν, τὰ ἕκαστα διίδμεναι εὐχετόωντο.  
οὐδ’ ἔτι τάσδ’ ἀνὰ χῶρον ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλὰ τις  
ἄχλιν

1360

ἠὲ νέφος μεσσηγὺ φαεινομένας ἐκάλυψεν.  
Ὡς ἔφαθ’· οἱ δ’ ἄρα πάντες ἐθάμβεον εἰσαίοντες.  
ἔνθα τὸ μῆκιστον τεράων Μινύησιν ἐτύχθη.  
ἐξ ἁλὸς ἠπειρόνδε πελώριος ἔκθορεν ἵππος,  
ἀμφιλαφής, χρυσέῃσι μετήορος αὐχένα χαίταις·  
ρίμφα δὲ σεισάμενος γυνίαν ἀπο νήχυντον ἄλμην  
ὤρτο θέειν, πνοιῇ ἱκελὸς πόδας. αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς  
γῆθῆσας ἐτάροισιν ὁμηγερέεσσι μετηύδα·

‘Ἄρματα μὲν δὴ φημι Ποσειδάωνος ἔγωγε  
ἤδη νῦν ἀλόχοιο φίλης ὑπὸ χερσὶ λελύσθαι·  
μητέρα δ’ οὐκ ἄλλην προτιόσσομαι, ἥ περ αὐτὴν  
νῆα πέλειν· ἥ γὰρ κατὰ νηδύος ἄμμε φέρουσα  
νωλεμὲς ἀργαλέοισιν διζύει καμάτοισιν.  
ἀλλὰ μιν ἵστεμφεῖ τε βίῃ καὶ ἀτειρέσιν ὤμοις

1370

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

"Listen, friends; as I lay in my grief, three goddesses girded with goat-skins from the neck downwards round the back and waist, like maidens, stood over my head nigh at hand; and they uncovered me, drawing my cloak away with light hand, and they bade me rise up myself and go and rouse you, and pay to our mother a bounteous recompense for all her travail when she bare us so long in her womb, when Amphitrite shall have loosed Poseidon's swift-wheeled car. But I cannot fully understand concerning this divine message. They said indeed that they were heroines, Libya's warders and daughters; and all the toils that we endured aforetime by land and sea, all these they declared that they knew full well. Then I saw them no more in their place, but a mist or cloud came between and hid them from my sight."

Thus he spake, and all marvelled as they heard. Then was wrought for the Minyæ the strangest of portents. From the sea to the land leapt forth a monstrous horse, of vast size, with golden mane tossing round his neck; and quickly from his limbs he shook off abundant spray and started on his course, with feet like the wind. And at once Peleus rejoiced and spake among the throng of his comrades:

"I deem that Poseidon's car has even now been loosed by the hands of his dear wife, and I divine that our mother is none else than our ship herself; for surely she bare us in her womb and groans unceasingly with grievous travailing. But with unshaken strength and untiring shoulders will we

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

lift her up and bear her within this country of sandy wastes, where yon swift-footed steed has sped before. For he will not plunge beneath the earth; and his hoof-prints, I ween, will point us to some bay above the sea."

Thus he spake, and the fit counsel pleased all. This is the tale the Muses told; and I sing obedient to the Pierides, and this report have I heard most truly; that ye, O mightiest far of the sons of kings, by your might and your valour over the desert sands of Libya raised high aloft on your shoulders the ship and all that ye brought therein, and bare her twelve days and nights alike. Yet who could tell the pain and grief which they endured in that toil? Surely they were of the blood of the immortals, such a task did they take on them, constrained by necessity. How forward and how far they bore her gladly to the waters of the Tritonian lake! How they strode in and set her down from their stalwart shoulders!

Then, like raging hounds, they rushed to search for a spring; for besides their suffering and anguish, a parching thirst lay upon them, and not in vain did they wander; but they came to the sacred plain where Ladon, the serpent of the land, till yesterday kept watch over the golden apples in the garden of Atlas; and all around the nymphs, the Hesperides, were busied, chanting their lovely song. But at that time, stricken by Heracles, he lay fallen by the trunk of the apple-tree; only the tip of his tail was still writhing; but from his head down his dark spine he lay lifeless; and where the arrows had left in his blood the bitter gall of the Lernaean hydra, flies withered and died over the festering wounds. And close at hand the Hesperides, their white arms

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

flung over their golden heads, lamented shrilly ; and the heroes drew near suddenly ; but the maidens, at their quick approach, at once became dust and earth where they stood. Orpheus marked the divine portent, and for his comrades addressed them in prayer : " O divine ones, fair and kind, be gracious, O queens, whether ye be numbered among the heavenly goddesses, or those beneath the earth, or be called the Solitary nymphs ; come, O nymphs, sacred race of Oceanus, appear manifest to our longing eyes and show us some spring of water from the rock or some sacred flow gushing from the earth, goddesses, wherewith we may quench the thirst that burns us unceasingly. And if ever again we return in our voyaging to the Achaean land, then to you among the first of goddesses with willing hearts will we bring countless gifts, libations and banquets."

So he spake, beseeching them with plaintive voice ; and they from their station near pitied their pain ; and lo ! first of all they caused grass to spring from the earth ; and above the grass rose up tall shoots ; and then flourishing saplings grew standing upright far above the earth. Hesperie became a poplar and Eretheis an elm, and Aegle a willow's sacred trunk. And forth from these trees their forms looked out, as clear as they were before, a marvel exceeding great, and Aegle spake with gentle words answering their longing looks :

" Surely there has come hither a mighty succour to your toils, that most accursèd man, who robbed our guardian serpent of life and plucked the golden apples of the goddesses and is gone ; and has left bitter grief for us. For yesterday came a man most

καὶ δέμας· ὅσσε δέ οἱ βλοσυρῷ ὑπέλαμπε μετώπῳ  
 νηλῆς· ἀμφὶ δὲ δέρμα πελωρίου ἔστο λέοντος  
 ὠμόν, ἀδέψητον· στιβαρὸν δ' ἔχεν ὄζον ἐλαίης  
 τόξα τε, τοῖσι πέλωρ τόδ' ἀπέφθισεν ἰοβολήσας. 1440  
 ἦλυθε δ' οὖν κἀκείνος, ἅτε χθόνα πεζὸς ὀδεύων,  
 δίψῃ καρχαλέος· παίφασσε δὲ τόνδ' ἀνὰ χῶρον,  
 ὕδωρ ἐξερέων, τὸ μὲν οὖ ποθι μέλλεν ἰδέσθαι.  
 ἦδε δέ τις πέτρη Τριτωνίδος ἐγγύθι λίμνης·  
 τὴν ὄγ' ἐπιφρασθεῖς, ἥ καὶ θεοῦ ἐννεσίησιν,  
 λαξ ποδὶ τύψεν ἐνερθε· τὸ δ' ἀθρόον ἔβλυσεν ὕδωρ.  
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἄμφω χεῖρε πέδῳ καὶ στέρνον ἐρείσας  
 ῥωγάδος ἐκ πέτρης πῖεν ἄσπετον, ὄφρα βαθεῖαν  
 νηδύν, φορβάδι ἴσος ἐπιπροπεσών, ἐκορέσθη·

ὣς φάτο· τοὶ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἵνα σφίσι πέφραδεν

Αἴγλη

1450

πίδακα, τῇ θεὸν αἶψα κεχαρμένοι, ὄφρ' ἐπέκυσαν.  
 ὥς δ' ὁπότε στευνὴν περὶ χηραμὸν εἰλίσσονται  
 γειομόροι μύρμηκες ὁμιλαδόν, ἥ ὅτε μνῖαι  
 ἀμφ' ὀλίγην μέλιτος γλυκεροῦ λίβα πεπτηνῖαι  
 ἄπλητον μεμάασιν ἐπήτριμοι· ὥς τότε ἁολλεῖς  
 πετραίῃ Μινύαι περὶ πίδακι δινεύεσκον.  
 καὶ πού τις διεροῖς ἐπὶ χεῖλεσιν εἶπεν ἰανθεῖς·

ὦ πόποι, ἥ καὶ νόσφιν ἐὼν ἐσάωσεν ἐταῖρους  
 Ἡρακλῆς δίψῃ κεκμηότας. ἀλλὰ μιν εἴ πως  
 δήοιμεν στείχοντα δι' ἠπειροῖο κιόντες·

1460

Ἦ, καὶ ἀμειβομένων, οὔτ' ἄρμενοι ἐς τόδε ἔργον,  
 ἐκριθεν ἄλλυδις ἄλλος ἐπαίξας ἐρεεῖνεν.  
 ἶχνια γὰρ νυχίοισιν ἐπηλύνθητ' ἀνέμοισιν

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

fell in wanton violence, most grim in form ; and his eyes flashed beneath his scowling brow ; a ruthless wretch ; and he was clad in the skin of a monstrous lion of raw hide, untanned ; and he bare a sturdy bow of olive, and a bow, wherewith he shot and killed this monster here. So he too came, as one traversing the land on foot, parched with thirst ; and he rushed wildly through this spot, searching for water, but nowhere was he like to see it. Now here stood a rock near the Tritonian lake ; and of his own device, or by the prompting of some god, he smote it below with his foot ; and the water gushed out in full flow. And he, leaning both his hands and chest upon the ground, drank a huge draught from the rifted rock, until, stooping like a beast of the field, he had satisfied his mighty maw."

Thus she spake ; and they gladly with joyful steps ran to the spot where Aegle had pointed out to them the spring, until they reached it. And as when earth-burrowing ants gather in swarms round a narrow cleft, or when flies lighting upon a tiny drop of sweet honey cluster round with insatiate eagerness ; so at that time, huddled together, the Minyæ thronged about the spring from the rock. And thus with wet lips one cried to another in his delight :

"Strange ! In very truth Heracles, though far away, has saved his comrades, forlorn with thirst. Would that we might find him on his way as we pass through the mainland !"

So they spake, and those who were ready for this work answered, and they separated this way and that, each starting to search. For by the night winds the footsteps had been effaced where the sand

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

was stirred. The two sons of Boreas started up, trusting in their wings; and Euphemus, relying on his swift feet, and Lynceus to cast far his piercing eyes; and with them darted off Canthus, the fifth. He was urged on by the doom of the gods and his own courage, that he might learn for certain from Heracles where he had left Polyphemus, son of Eilatus; for he was minded to question him on every point concerning his comrade. But that hero had founded a glorious city among the Mysians, and, yearning for his home-return, had passed far over the mainland in search of Argo; and in time he reached the land of the Chalybes, who dwell near the sea; there it was that his fate subdued him. And to him a monument stands under a tall poplar, just facing the sea. But that day Lynceus thought he saw Heracles all alone, far off, over measureless land, as a man at the month's beginning sees, or thinks he sees, the moon through a bank of cloud. And he returned and told his comrades that no other searcher would find Heracles on his way, and they also came back, and swift-footed Euphemus and the twin sons of Thracian Boreas, after a vain toil.

But thee, Canthus, the fates of death seized in Libya. On pasturing flocks didst thou light; and there followed a shepherd who, in defence of his own sheep, while thou wert leading them off<sup>1</sup> to thy comrades in their need, slew thee by the cast of a stone; for he was no weakling, Caphaurus, the grandson of Lycorean Phoebus and the chaste maiden Acacallis, whom once Minos drove from home

<sup>1</sup> This seems to be the only possible translation, but the optative is quite anomalous. We should expect *ἐκβύσει*.



ἐς Λιβύην ἀπένασσε θεοῦ βαρὺ κῦμα φέρουσιν,  
θυγατέρα σφετέρην· ἥ δ' ἀγλαὸν υἷα Φοῖβῳ  
τίκτεν, δν Ἀμφίθεμιν Γαράμαντά τε κικλή-  
σκουσιν.

Ἀμφίθεμις δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα μίγῃ Τριτωνίδι νύμφῃ·  
ἥ δ' ἄρα οἱ Νασάμωνα τέκεν κρατερόν τε Κάφαν-  
ρον,

ὃς τότε Κάνθον ἔπεφνεν ἐπὶ ῥήνεσσιν ἐοῖσιν.  
οὐδ' ὄγ' ἀριστήων χαλεπὰς ἠλεύατο χεῖρας,  
ὥς μάθον οἷον ἔρεξε. νέκυν δ' ἀνάειραν ὀπίσσω  
πενθόμενοι Μινύαι, γαίῃ δ' ἐνὶ ταρχύσαντο  
μυρόμενοι· τὰ δὲ μῆλα μετὰ σφέας οἷγ' ἐκόμισσαν.

1500

Ἐνθα καὶ Ἀμπυκίδην αὐτῷ ἐνὶ ἡματι Μόψον  
νηλεῆς ἔλε πότμος· ἀδευκέα δ' οὐ φύγεν αἴσαν  
μαντοσύναις· οὐ γάρ τις ἀποτροπή θανάτοιο.  
κεῖτο δ' ἐπὶ ψαμάθοισι μεσημβρινὸν ἡμαρ ἀλύ-  
σκων

δεινὸς ὄφεις, νωθῆς μὲν ἐκὼν ἀέκοντα χαλέψαι·  
οὐδ' ἂν ὑποτρέσαντος ἐνωπαδὶς αἴξειεν.

ἀλλὰ μὲν ὧ τὰ πρῶτα μελάγχχιμον ἰὼν ἐνεΐῃ  
ζώνοντων, ὅσα γαῖα φερέσβιος ἔμπνοα βόσκει,  
οὐδ' ὅπόσον πῆχυιον ἐς Ἄϊδα γίγνεται οἶμος,  
οὐδ' εἰ Παιήων, εἴ μοι θέμις ἀμφαδὸν εἰπεῖν,  
φαρμάσσοι, ὅτε μῦνον ἐνιχρίμψῃσιν ὁδοῦσιν.  
εὔτε γὰρ ἰσόθεος Λιβύην ὑπερέπτατο Περσεὺς  
Εὐρυμέδων—καὶ γὰρ τὸ κάλεσκέ μιν οὔνομα  
μήτηρ—

1510

Γοργόνος ἀρτίτομον κεφαλὴν βασιλῆι κομίζων,  
ὅσσαι κυανέου στάγες αἵματος οὐδας ἵκοντο,  
αἱ πᾶσαι κείνων ὀφίων γένος ἐβλάστησαν.  
τῷ δ' ἄκρην ἐπ' ἄκανθαν ἐνεστηρίξατο Μόψος  
λαιὸν ἐπιπροφέρων ταρσὺν ποδός· αὐτὰρ ὁ μέσσην

κερκίδα καὶ μυνῶνα, πέριξ ὁδύνησιν ἐλιχθεῖς,  
 σάρκα δακῶν ἐχάραξεν. ἀτὰρ Μῆδεια καὶ ἄλλαι  
 ἔτρεσαν ἀμφίπολοι· ὁ δὲ φοῖνιον ἔλκος ἄφασσεν  
 θαρσαλέως, ἔνεκ' οὐ μιν ὑπέρβιον ἄλγος ἔτειρεν.  
 σχέτλιος· ἦ τέ οἱ ἤδη ὑπὸ χροῖ δύετο κῶμα  
 λυσιμελές, πολλή δὲ κατ' ὀφθαλμῶν χέετ' ἀχλὺς.  
 αὐτίκα δὲ κλίνας δαπέδῳ βεβαρηότα γυνῖα  
 ψύχετ' ἀμυχανίῃ· ἔταροι δὲ μιν ἀμφαγέροντο  
 ἥρως τ' Αἰσονίδης, ἀδινῇ περιθαμβέες ἄτη.  
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἀποφθίμενός περ ἔμελλεν  
 κεῖσθαι ὑπ' ἡελίῳ. πύθεσκε γὰρ ἔνδοθι σάρκας  
 ἰὸς ἄφαρ, μυδόωσα δ' ἀπὸ χροῶς ἔρρεε λάχνη.  
 αἶψα δὲ χαλκείῃσι βαθὺν τάφον ἐξελάχαινον  
 ἐσσυμένως μακέλησιν· ἐμοιρήσαντο δὲ χαίτας  
 αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς κοῦραί τε, νέκυν ἐλεεινὰ παθόντα  
 μυρόμενοι· τρεῖς δ' ἀμφὶ σὺν ἔντεσι δινηθέντες  
 εὐ κτερέων ἰσχοντα, χυτὴν ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἔθεντο.

1520

1530

Ἄλλ' ὅτε δὴ ῥ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβαν, πρήσσοντος ἀήτεω  
 ἅμ πέλαγος νοτίοιο, πόρους τ' ἀπετεκμαίροντο  
 λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν Τριτωνίδος, οὐτίνα μῆτιν  
 δὴν ἔχον, ἀφραδέως δὲ πανημέριοι φορέοντο.  
 ὥς δὲ δράκων σκολιὴν εἰλεγμένος ἔρχεται οἶμον,  
 εὐτέ μιν ὀξύτατον θάλλπει σέλας ἡελίοιο·  
 ῥοίζῳ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κάρη στρέφει, ἐν δὲ οἱ ὕσσε  
 σπινθαρύγεσσι πυρὸς ἐναλίγκια μαιμώνοντι  
 λάμπεται, ὅφρα μυχόνδε διὰ ῥωχμοῖο δύνῃται·  
 ὥς Ἀργῶ λίμνης στόμα ναύπορον ἐξερέουσα  
 ἀμφεπύλει δηναιὸν ἐπὶ χρόνον. αὐτίκα δ' Ὀρφεὺς  
 κέκλετ' Ἀπόλλωνος τρίποδα μέγαν ἔκδοθι νηὸς  
 δαίμοσιν ἐγγενέταις νοστώ ἐπι μείλια θέσθαι.  
 καὶ τοὶ μὲν Φοῖβου κτέρας ἴδρυσον ἐν χθονὶ βάντες·

1550

τοῖσιν δ' αἰζήφ' ἐναλίγκιος ἀντεβόλησεν  
 Τρίτων εὐρυβίης, γαίης δ' ἀνὰ βῶλον αἶρας  
 ξείνι' ἰριστήεσσι προΐσχετο, φώνησέν τε·

Ἄεχθε, φίλοι· ἐπεὶ οὐ περιώσιον ἐγγυαλίξαι  
 ἐνθάδε νῦν πᾶρ' ἐμοὶ ξεινήιον ἀντομένοισιν.  
 εἰ δέ τι τῆσδε πόρους μαίεσθ' ἄλός, οἷά τε πολλὰ  
 ἄνθρωποι χατέουσιν ἐν ἁλλοδαπῇ περόωντες,  
 ἐξερέω. δὴ γάρ με πατήρ ἐπίστορα πόντου  
 θῆκε Ποσειδάων τοῦδ' ἔμμεναι. αὐτὰρ ἀνάσσω  
 παρραλίας, εἰ δὴ τιν' ἀκούετε νόσφιν ἔοντες  
 Εὐρύπυλον Λιβύη θηροτρόφῳ ἐγγεγαῶτα.

1560

Ὡς ἡῦδα· πρόφρων δ' ὑπερέσχεθε βῶλακι  
 χεῖρας

Εὐφημος, καὶ τοῖα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·  
 Ἄπίδα<sup>1</sup> καὶ πέλαγος Μινώιον εἴ νύ που, ἦρωε,  
 ἐξεδάης, νημερτὲς ἀνειρομένοισιν ἐνισπε.  
 δεῦρ' οὐκ ἐθέλοντες ἰκάνομεν, ἀλλὰ βαρείαις  
 χρίμψαντες γαίης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδε θυέλλαις  
 νῆα μεταχρονίην ἐκομίσσαμεν ἐς τὸδε λίμνης  
 χεῦμα δι' ἡπείρου βεβαρημένοι· οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν,  
 πῇ πλόος ἐξανέχει Πελοπηίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι.

1570

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ χεῖρα τανύσσατο, δείξε δ'  
 ἄπωθεν

φωνήσας πόντον τε καὶ ἀγχιβαθὲς στόμα λίμνης·  
 Κεῖνη μὲν πόντοιο διήλυσσι, ἔνθα μάλιστα  
 βένθος ἀκίνητον μελανεῖ· ἐκάτερθε δὲ λευκαὶ  
 ῥηγμῖνες φρίσσουσι διαυγέες· ἡ δὲ μεσηγὺν  
 ῥηγμίνων στενωπὴ τελέθει ὁδὸς ἐκτὸς ἐλάσσαι.  
 κεῖνο δ' ὑπὲριον θείην Πελοπηίδα γαῖαν  
 εἰσανέχει πέλαγος Κρήτης ὑπερ' ἄλλ' ἐπὶ χειρὸς

<sup>1</sup> Ἀπίδα a variant in scholia: Ἀττίδα MSS.

δεξιτερῆς, λίμνηθεν ὅτ' εἰς ἄλός οἶδμα βάλητε,  
τόφρ' αὐτὴν παρὰ χέρσον ἐργαμένοι ἰθύνεσθε,  
ἔστ' ἂν ἄνω τεύησιν περιρρήδην δ' ἐτέρωσε  
κλινομένης χέρσοιο, τότε πλόος ὕμιν ἀπήμων  
ἀγκῶνος τέτατ' ἰθὺς ἀπὸ προύχοντος ἰούσιν.  
ἀλλ' ἴτε γηθόσυνοι, καμάτοιο δὲ μήτις ἀνὴ  
γυγνέσθω, νεότητι κεκασμένα γυνῖα μογήσαι.'

1580

Ἴσκεν ἐνφρονέων· οἱ δ' αἰψ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβησαν  
λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν λεληημένοι εἰρεσίησιν.  
καὶ δὴ ἐπιπρονέοντο μεμαότες· αὐτὰρ ὁ τείως  
Τρίτων ἀνθέμενος τρίποδα μέγαν, εἷσατο λίμνην  
εἰσβαίνειν· μετὰ δ' οὔτις ἐσέδρακεν, οἷον ἄφαντος  
αὐτῷ σὺν τρίποδι σχεδὸν ἔπλετο. τοῖσι δ' ἰάνθη  
θυμός, ὃ δὴ μακάρων τις ἐναίσιμος ἀντεβόλησεν.  
καὶ ῥά οἱ Αἰσονίδην μῆλων ὃ τι φέρτατον ἄλλων  
ἦνωγον ῥέξαι καὶ ἐπευφημῆσαι ἐλόντα.  
αἰψα δ' ὄγ' ἐσσυμένως ἐκρίνατο, καὶ μιν αἶρας  
σφάξε κατὰ πρύμνης, ἐπὶ δ' ἔννεπεν εὐχολῆσιν·

1590

Ἐαῖμον, ὅτις λίμνης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδ' ἐφαάνθης,  
εἴτε σέγε Τρίτων', αἶλιον τέρας, εἴτε σε Φόρκυν,  
ἢ Νηρηῖα θύγατρες ἐπικλείουσ' ἄλοσύδναι,  
Ἰλαθι, καὶ νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὄπαζε.'

1600

Ἦ ῥ', αἶμα δ' εὐχολῆσιν ἐς ὕδατα λαιμοτομήσας  
ἦκε κατὰ πρύμνης· ὁ δὲ βένθεος ἐξεφαάνθη  
τοῖος ἑών, οἷός περ ἐτήτυμος ἦεν ἰδέσθαι.  
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀνὴρ βοὸν ἵππον ἐπ' εὐρέα κύκλον ἀγκῶνος  
στέλλῃ, ὀρεζάμενος λασίης εὐπειθέα χαίτης,  
εἶθαρ ἐπιτροχάων, ὁ δ' ἐπ' αὐχένι γαῦρος ἀερθεὶς  
ἔσπεται, ἀργινόεντα δ' ἐνὶ στομάτεσσι χαλινὰ

ἀμφὶς ὀδακτάζοντι παραβλήδην κροτέονται  
 ὥς ὅγ' ἐπισχόμενος γλαφυρῆς ὀλκήιον Ἀργοῦς  
 ἦγ' ἄλλαδε προτέρωσε· δέμας δέ οἱ ἐξ ὑπάτοιο  
 κρύατος, ἀμφί τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας ἔστ' ἐπὶ νηδὺν  
 ἀντικρὺ μακάρεσσι φυὴν ἔκπαγλον ἕκτο·  
 αὐτὰρ ὑπαὶ λαγόνων δέκραιρά οἱ ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα  
 κήτεος ὀλκαίη μηκύνετο· κόπτε δ' ἀκάνθαις  
 ἄκρον ὕδωρ, αἶτε σκολιοῖς ἐπινειόθι κέντροις  
 μήνης ὥς κεράεσσιν εἰειδόμεναι διχόωντο.  
 τόφρα δ' ἄγην, τείως μιν ἐπιπροέηκε θαλάσση  
 νισσομένην· δὴ δ' αἶψα μέγαν βυθὸν· οἱ δ' ὁμάδη-  
 σαν

1610

ἦρωες, τέρας αἰνὸν ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδόντες.  
 ἔνθα μὲν Ἀργῶός τε λιμὴν καὶ σήματα νηὸς  
 ἠδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἰδὲ Τρίτωνος ἔασιν  
 βωμόι· ἐπεὶ κεῖν' ἡμαρ ἐπέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ ἐς ἡῶ  
 λαίφεσι πεπταμένοις αὐτὴν ἐπὶ δεξι' ἔχοντες  
 γαῖαν ἐρημαῖην, πνοιῇ ζεφύροιο θέεσκον.  
 ἦρι δ' ἐπειτ' ἀγκῶνά θ' ὁμοῦ μυχάτην τε θάλασσαν  
 κεκλιμένην ἀγκῶνος ὑπερ προυχόντος ἴδοντο.  
 αὐτίκα δὲ ζέφυρος μὲν ἐλώφεεν, ἤλυθε δ' αὖρη  
 ἀργεστῆος νότου· κεχάροντο δὲ θυμὸν ἰωῇ.  
 ἦμος δ' ἡέλιος μὲν ἔδν, ἀνὰ δ' ἤλυθεν ἀστὴρ  
 αὐλῖος, ὅστ' ἀνέπαυσεν οἰζυροῦς ἀροτῆρας,  
 δὴ τότε· ἐπειτ' ἀνέμοιο κελαινῇ νυκτὶ λιπόντος  
 ἰστία λυσάμενοι περιμήκεά τε κλίναντες  
 ἰστόν, εὐξέστησιν ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάτῃσιν  
 παννύχιοι καὶ ἐπ' ἡμαρ, ἐπ' ἡματι δ' αὖτις ἰοῦσαν  
 νύχθ' ἑτέρην. ὑπέδεκτο δ' ἀποπροθι παιπαλόεσσα  
 Κάρπαθος· ἔνθεν δ' οἷγε περαιώσεσθαι ἔμελλον  
 Κρήτην, ἣτ' ἄλλων ὑπερέπλετο εἰν ἀλλ' νήσων.

1620

1630

Τοὺς δὲ Τάλως χάλκειος, ἀπὸ στιβαροῦ σκοπέ-  
λοιο

ῥηγνύμενος πέτρας, εἶργε χθονὶ πείσματ' ἀνίψαι,  
Δικταίην ὄρμοιο κατερχομένους ἐπιωγῆν. 1640

τὸν μὲν χαλκείης μελιηγενέων ἀνθρώπων  
ρίξης λοιπὸν ἔοντα μετ' ἀνδράσιν ἡμιθέοισιν  
Εὐρώπῃ Κρονίδης νήσου πόρεν ἔμμεναι οὖρον,  
τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις Κρήτην ποσὶ δινεύοντα.

ἀλλ' ἦτοι τὸ μὲν ἄλλο δέμας καὶ γυνὴ τέτυκτο  
χάλκεος ἢ δ' ἄρρηκτος· ὑπαὶ δέ οἱ ἔσκε τένοντος  
σύρυγξ αἱματόεσσα κατὰ σφυρόν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε  
λεπτὸς ὑμῆν, ζωῆς, ἔχε, πείρατα καὶ θανάτοιο.  
οἱ δέ, δῦν μάλα περ δεδμημένοι, αἰψ' ἀπὸ χέρσου  
νῆα περιδδείσαντες ἀνακρούεσκον ἑρετμοῖς. 1650

καὶ νύ κ' ἐπισμυγερώς Κρήτης ἐκὰς ἤέρθησαν,  
ἀμφοτέρων δίψῃ τε καὶ ἄλγεσι μοχθίζοντες,  
εἰ μὴ σφιν Μῆδεα λιαζομένοις ἀγόρευσεν·

‘Κέκλυτέ μεν. μούνη γὰρ οἶομαι ὕμμι δαμίσ-  
σειν

ἄνδρα τόν, ὅστις ὁδ' ἐστί, καὶ εἰ παγχάλκεον ἴσχει  
ὃν δέμας, ὅπποτε μὴ οἱ ἐπ' ἀκάματος πέλοι αἰών.  
ἀλλ' ἔχετ' αὐτοῦ νῆα θελήμονες ἐκτὸς ἐρωῆς  
πετράων, εἴως κεν ἐμοὶ εἴξειε δαμῆναι.’

‘Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τοὶ μὲν ὑπὲκ βελέων ἐρύσαντο  
νῆ' ἐπ' ἑρετμοῖσιν, δεδοκημένοι ἦντινα ῥέξει 1660

μῆτιν ἀναιστώσ· ἡ δὲ πτύχα πορφυρέοιο  
προσχομένη πέπλοιο παρειάων ἐκάτερθεν  
βῆσατ' ἐπ' ἱκριόφιν· χειρὸς δέ εἰ χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς  
Αἰσονίδης ἐκομίζε διὰ κληΐδας ἰούσαν.

ἔνθα δ' αἰοιδῆσιν μειλίσσετο, μέλπε δὲ Κῆρας  
θυμοβόρους, Αἶδαο θοὰς κύνας, αἱ περὶ πᾶσαν

ἡέρα δινεύουσai ἐπὶ ζωοῖσιν ἄγονται.  
 τὰς γονναζομένη τρὶς μὲν παρεκέκλετ' αἰοδαῖς,  
 τρὶς δὲ λιταῖς· θεμένη δὲ κακὸν νόον, ἐχθοδοποῖσιν  
 ὄμμασι χαλκείοιο Τάλω ἐμέγηρεν ὅπωπας·  
 λευγαλέον δ' ἐπὶ οἷ πρῖεν χόλον, ἐκ δ' αἰδηλα  
 δείκῃλα προΐαλλεν, ἐπιζάφελον κοτέουσα.

1670

Ζεῦ πάτερ, ἡ μέγα δὴ μοι ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θάμβος ἄηται,  
 εἰ δὴ μὴ νοῦσοισι τυπῇσί τε λυγρὸς ὀλεθρὸς  
 ἀντιάει, καὶ δὴ τις ἀπόπροθεν ἄμμε χαλέπτει.  
 ὥς ὄγε χάλκειός περ ἐὼν ὑπόειξε δαμῆναι  
 Μηδείης βρίμῃ πολυφαρμάκου. ἂν δε βαρείας  
 ὀχλίζων λάνγγας, ἐρυκέμεν ὄρμον ἰκέσθαι,  
 πετραίῳ στόνυχι χρίμψῃ σφυρόν· ἐκ δὲ οἱ ἰχώρ  
 τηκομένη ἱκελὸς μολίσβῃ ῥέεν· οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν  
 εἰστήκει προβλήτος ἐπεμβεβαῶς σκοπέλοιο.  
 ἀλλ' ὥς τίς τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι πελωρίῃ ὑψόθι πεύκη,  
 τήντε θοοῖς πελέκεσσιν ἔθ' ἡμιπλήγῃ λιπόντες  
 ὕλοτόμοι δρυμοῖο κατήλυθον· ἡ δ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ  
 ῥιπῇσιν μὲν πρῶτα τινάσσεται, ὕστερον αὖτε  
 πρυμνόθεν ἐξαγείσα κατήριπεν· ὥς ὄγε ποσσὶν  
 ἀκαμάτοις τείως μὲν ἐπισταδὸν ἤωρεῖτο,  
 ὕστερον αὖτ' ἀμενηνὸς ἀπείρονι κάππεσε δούπῳ.  
 κείνο μὲν οὖν Κρήτῃ ἐνὶ δὴ κνέφας ἠϋλίζοντο  
 ἡρωες· μετὰ δ' οὔγε νέον φαέθουσιν ἐς ἡῶ  
 ἶρόν· Ἀθηναίης Μινωίδος ἰδρύσαντο,  
 ὕδωρ τ' εἰσαφύσαντο καὶ εἰσέβαν, ὥς κεν ἐρετμοῖς  
 παμπρώτιστα βάλοιεν ὑπὲρ Σαλμωνίδος ἄκρης.

1680

1690

Αὐτίκα δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπὲρ μέγα λαῖτμα θεόντας  
 νύξ ἐφόβει, τήνπερ τε κατουλάδα κικλήσκουσιν·  
 νύκτ' ὅλοῃν οὐκ ἄστρα διίσχανεν, οὐκ ἀμαρυγαὶ  
 μήνης· οὐρανόθεν δὲ μέλαν χάος, ἥ τις ἄλλη

ᾠράρει σκοτὴν μυχάτων ἀνιοῦσα βερέθρων.  
αὐτοὶ δ', εἴτ' Ἀίδῃ, εἴθ' ὕδασιν ἐμφορέοντο,  
ἡείδειν οὐδ' ὅσσαν· ἐπέτρεψαν δὲ θαλάσση  
νόστον, ἀμηχανέοντες, ὅπῃ φέροι. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων  
χεῖρας ἀνασχόμενος μεγάλῃ ὀπὶ Φοῖβον αὐτεῖ,  
ρύσασθαι καλέων· κατὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσχαλόωντι  
δαίκρυα· πολλὰ δὲ Πυθοῖ ὑπέσχετο, πολλὰ δ'  
Ἀμύκλαις,

1700

πολλὰ δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπερείσια δῶρα κομίσσειν.  
Ληγοῖδῃ, τύνῃ δὲ κατ' οὐρανοῦ ἴκεο πέτρας  
ρίμφα Μελαντίους ἀριήκοος, αἵτ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ  
ἦνται· δοιῶν δὲ μῆς ἐφύπερθεν ὁρούσας,  
δεξιτερῇ χρύσειον ἀνέσχεθες ὑψόθι τόξον·  
μαρμαρέην δ' ἀπέλαμψε βιὸς περὶ πάντοθεν αἶγλην.  
τοῖσι δὲ τις Σποράδων βαιὴ ἀπὸ τόφρ' ἐφαίνθη  
νῆσος ἰδεῖν, ὀλίγῃς Ἴππουρίδος ἀντία νήσου,  
ἐνθ' εὐνὰς ἐβάλοντο καὶ ἔσχεθον· αὐτίκα δ' ἠὼς  
φέγγεν ἀνερχομένη· τοὶ δ' ἀγλαὸν Ἀπόλλωνι  
ἄλσει ἐνὶ σκιερῷ τέμενος σκιοέντά τε βωμὸν  
ποίηον, Αἶγλήτην μὲν εὐσκόπου εἵνεκεν αἶγλης  
Φοῖβον κεκλόμενοι· Ἀνάφην δὲ τε λισσάδα νήσου  
ἴσκον, ὃ δὴ Φοῖβός μιν ἀτυζομένοις ἀνέφηνεν.  
ρέζον δ' ὅσσα περ ἄνδρες ἐρημαίῃ ἐνὶ ῥέξειν  
ἀκτῇ ἐφοπλίσσειαν· ὃ δὴ σφείας ὀππότε δαλοῖς  
ὑδῶρ αἰθομένοισιν ἐπιλλείβοντας ἴδοντο  
Μηδείης δμῳαὶ Φαιηκίδες, οὐκέτ' ἔπειτα  
ἴσχειν ἐν στήθεσσι γέλω σθένον, οἷα θαμνίαν  
αἶεν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο βοοκτασίας ὀρώσσαι.  
τὰς δ' αἰσχροῖς ἥρωες ἐπεστοβέεσκον ἐπεσσω  
χλεύῃ γηθόσυνοι· γλυκερὴ δ' ἀνεδαίετο τοῖσιν

1720



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